Hey, Jeff, did you hear that?
Do you want me to explain again?
Ness...
I'm still not really sure why, but this place has a melody that is very important to record... A talking bee told me so!

Jeff? Are you okay? You keep spacing out... Ever since we recovered from that crazy coffee and entered Milky Well, you've been...different... Are you feeling strange?
What's that, Ness? Feeling...strange?

Gah ha ha! No need to be suspicious! I'm not strange at all!
Saying that just makes you incredibly suspicious...

Here, let me show you just how great I feel!
BASH!
Gah!

Jeff, snap out of it! Why did you just hurt Ness??
Paula, honestly... Is this the time to be worrying about Ness?

You should be much more worried about yourself!

No hard feelings, of course! It's not like I want to shoot you, I just ran out of targets!
PSI Shield.
Oh.
Oh, Ness...how long have I been asleep?
Wait...what's with the bump? Where am I??
A small bump like this will never stop me... I'll show you a real bash attack.
SMAAASH!!
Ahaha! Ness, old pal! You wouldn't hit a guy with glasses, would ya?!
Looks like a mushroom got him just after we entered Milky Well...
He's free now! I helped, so I can get more lines now, right??
...Only if you promise to never make that face again.
Reginald, give me the mushroom so I can analyze it.
...Give me $50.
Gwa ha ha... Ranboob won't stop there! I will come at you with my army of a thousand boobs!

Okay, men! This is our chance to strike! Ranboobs, assemble!
Hey you, with the face! Shaddap already!
It's too hot out...
Oooohhh! This isn't fair, it isn't fair at all! Ranboob is suppose to be a great leader, but nobody ever listens! My plan is ruined!!
What's going on here? This plant is wiggling around strangely...
It is indeed very strange, Ness... Perhaps it is preparing to bloom?
DESPAIR
DOOM
Drats!! How did they get this far already?! If only Ranboob had prepared more mushrooms...
Foolish children! Ranboob will stand perfectly still, then strike again after they leave! Gwa ha, such genius!
Does he realize he's talking out loud...?
Let's just move on, I don't think we have time to waste on such an ugly plant.
Ranboob is a mark of true beauty, pal! A fat boy like you would never understand!!

Stop it with the fat jokes, already! It's not me, it's the shirt!!
Oh, he's right... It looks like Ranboob's "Call him fat boy and run away" plan has failed as well...
Ho ho! But Ranboob has distracted him well enough to finish this in one strike!!
Never let your guard down in front of Ranboob the Seventh!!
WHAP!!
Wait, what...?
Did... Did you just hit me with a giant leaf?
Um... yes...
Did you expect it to hurt...?
I... don't know...
Is this going anywhere? If you don't mind, we'd rather avoid pointless filler... We're in a hurry, you see.
Wait! Ranboob swears, this is leading up to something HUGE! Please don't cut my scenes!!
Okay, are you ready?! Ranboob has two boobs waiting that will blow your minds!!
Time to reveal them at long last!! It's ACTION TIME, fellas!
...They never showed up...
I wonder what happened to them...
He's calling for help...
Who cares? The Thneed bus is running again!
Can we stop for snacks?
Our only stop... is DESTINY!

We're closing in on the next boss already? Either the path to Milky Well's sanctuary is meant to be simple or they're saving the real challenge for what's ahead...
Muuuuhhh... Some youngster has entered mah lair... Ah be wanderin' why... Maybe the fella wants to hear some of mah stories...
Is... Is this it?
Hoooooooooy! Up and at 'em, ya lazy sack o' fertilizer! Ah swear, the youth today is nothin' like it was a trillion years ago! Ah've still got the energy of a billionage sprout!
Come outta that ground this instant, boy! We've got guests!
TAP TAP TAP
Incredible! I know we have to fight this thing, but I'd really like to study it a bit before we begin... I bet it has a good deal of wisdom!
Now where did Ah leave mah shovel...
Zzzzzzzzzzzz...
Ah told ya... Ah don't be wantin' no beans, ma...
I'm heeeere! Let's do this, Great, ...
I guess we could just sneak around it, but...we really need the experience...
You're right... I feel kinda bad, though...
...Great, Grandpa!

If Paula's okay with it, then I won't hold back!
This pose and background let you know it's time for some real action!!
Hyaaaa!!!
Even heroes must sometimes beat old people in their sleep!
KRACK!!
Muh... B...Billy?
That you, Billy...?
Well, he woke up...
But somehow this still doesn't seem right...
Ah don't believe you shoulda been swingin' no bats around, Billy...
Ah'm thinkin' you need to be a whole lot more careful like!
Well, I was trying to crush you, see...
Grandpa, that's not Billy!
Not Billy?!
Ah'm not happy at all, youngster!
You best be tellin' me who ya are, before I be gettin' mah angry eyes out!
Actually, my name is Ness.
If you're guarding Milky Well's sanctuary, then I'm going to have to defeat you!
NESS...
What an...unfortunate... name...

• Trillionage Sprout glared with its eerie eyes!

What's going on...?
My head is spinning...
Those eyes are almost hypnotic...

My body is starting to feel heavy...

I can't block it! Those eyes are piercing through all of my psychic power...
Maybe I really have gotten soft compared to my old self...

Ness, snap out of it!! If you keep standing around, you'll never dodge his next attack!
BASH!
Oof! Jeff?? What're you doing??

I need to improve my image a bit, so I'm playing the tragic hero for now!
If I push you out of the way just in time...
I'll have sacrificed myself in order to secure our victory! My fans will think I'm the bee's knees!

Don't worry about me, Ness! Paula will support you, since you're the only one who can win this thing! I'll return triumphantly soon enough, I've already read the entire script, you see!
So go on and fight! I believe in you!

• Jeff was diamondized!

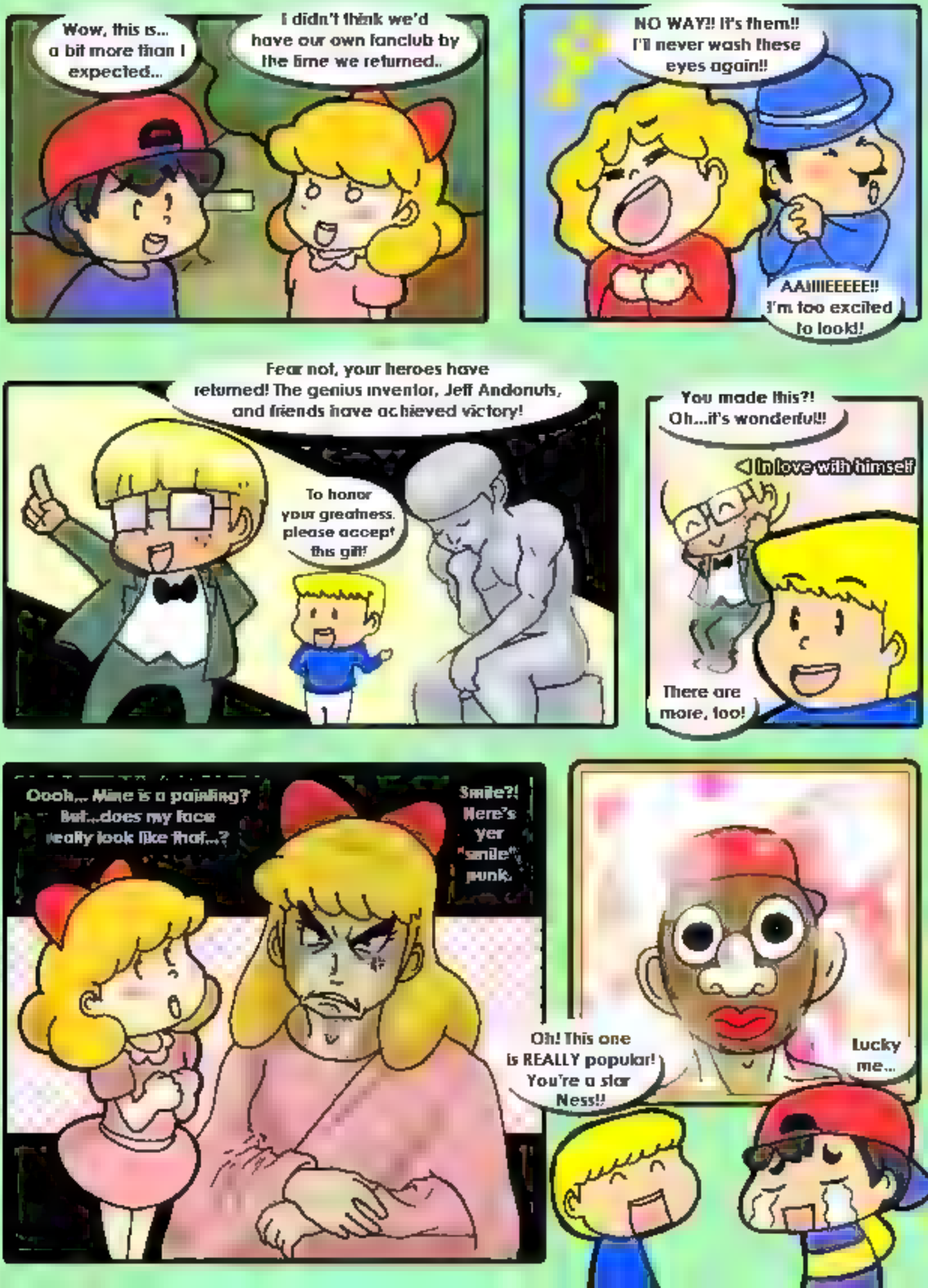
With the rest...of my strength...
I'll pose...dramatic...ally...
It's too late to save him...
I...don't think we even have the power to bring him back...
Jeff...
I'm sorry...
The sanctuary...
is our last hope, right?
...Hope? In the face of Giygas' almighty power, do you really think hope exists? Gwahaha!
Gramps wasn't just given this job for his looks, y'know!
If there's even a slight chance to bring Jeff back, then we'll make it happen!
I hope you're ready for retirement, old man!
Alright! All of these random action lines are getting me fired up, too! I'll take care of this guy, Ness!
HYA!!
Have at you, punk!
The legendary battle arrives!
It's only fitting that they would send their trump card after me!
Let's finish this before he can use that attack again!
Right!
Ah reckon...
You'll be wishin' you were diamond by the time ah'm through with ya...

If you think you can actually scare us, you're in for a big surprise! This one...is for Jeff!
PSI Rockin β!!
Dem kids and yer fancy graphics!
Why, in my day our games were only one bit, and ya were lucky to have a pixel that wasn't black or white! Ah won't be lettin' this here Lite Bright do me in just yet!
Now's the time fer youngsters like you to become diamond and learn some patience!
Dodge
Sorry, but this attack is too predicatable now.
Don't forget about me, now! Things are just about to get... heated!
Hee hee, I was waiting for a chance to say that...
We'll have to put that fire out right away! Luckily I have just the right thing!
By Ringo's stars! Mah eyes are on fire! Why are mah eyes on fire??
Ah see what yer doin' there. And Ah reckon... Ah don't like it.

Ah dare say, mah life is flashing before my eyes! Here comes my incredible backstory! Grab some popcorn, kids, this is gonna be a good one!
Hold yer horses, fellers! This ain't right, no sir! How're we gonna get to see mah backstory if Ah lose my eyes?!
the fall from this cliff is pretty long... Everything is gettin' dark...
Ah can't see my backstory, so Ah'll try'n remember it fer ya... let's see, how does if go...
This was me when Ah was a youngin'! What a handsome lad! Um...that's all Ah can remember.
That's...it?
Jeff, he's all yours! I know you'd want to be the one to land the final blow!
You can do it, Jeff! We'll finish this as a team!
Are you ready? here we go!!
Chaaaarge!!
BASH!!
Well fancy that, Ah can see myself again! Hey, body, come get me! Ah fell off...that... Oh. Dernit.

Well, I guess that takes care of him...but Reginald, you were also fighting, right? How did that go?
Let's just say I ended up making the best salad I've had in a long time.
Oh, Ness, we finally did it! The shining spot is gone, and the sunlight is coming in through Milky Well's cave once again! Now we can head through to the sanctuary!
I hope once we step inside Jeff will return to normal...
Wow, I feel great just walking into this place! I wonder what will happen this time...
Oh, Ness! It's wonderful!! So pretty!
Wuh... Oh, my head... Hey, guys, I guess we won, huh? Did you make it to that sanctuary you were looking for?
JEFF!!
Wahh!! Jeff, you dummy! We were so worried! If you ever do that again, I'll set you on fire!
Oh, Jeff, my boy! You've finally returned to us! Come to your father's arms!!
We did it!! I knew you'd come back!
Uhm...S...sorry g-guys...
Y-You grew a mustache?! How long has it been?!

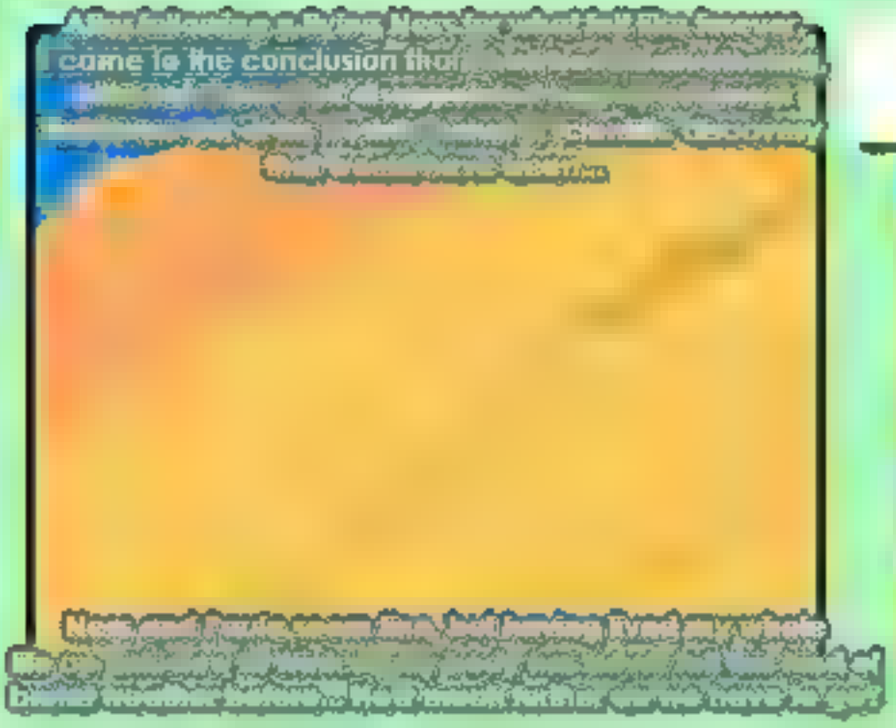
Oh! This is it! The sanctuary is reacting to the sound stone .. I wonder what will happen this time?
Is that... Mom? I feel like I can hear her speaking...
Ness... Be a thoughtful, strong boy..
Hee hee, how was that? I've been practicing my lines for awhile now...
The sound stone is recording this melody as well, Where could the next one be I wonder?
Doooo, do do doooo, do do-
I wonder if this well really does have milk-like properties. Reginald, go ahead and give it a taste!
Yeah. we're not doing that again.
Let's move out, guys! We have to go see how things are going in Threed!
Oh boy!! That means we can see the Mr Saturn again on our way back!
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS TURN OUT LIKE THIS?!
BOING!

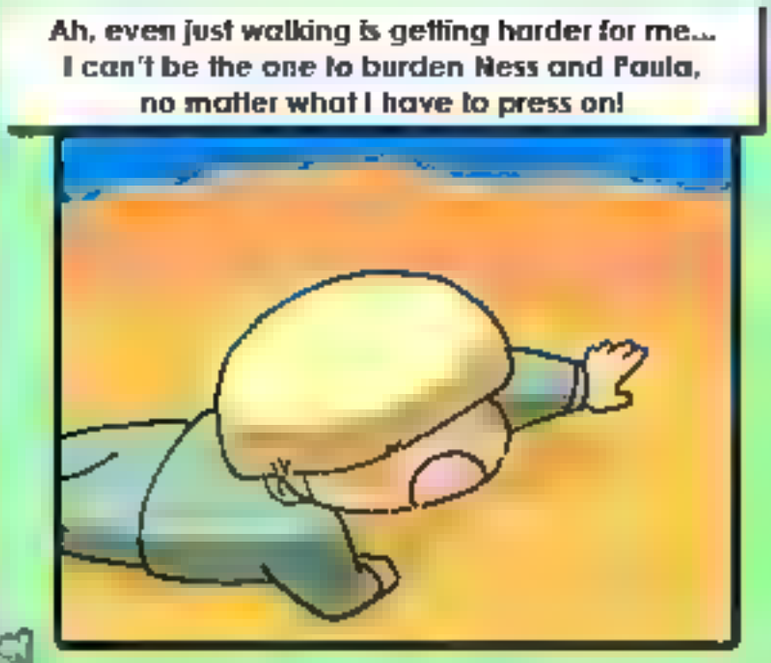

Wow, this is... a bit more than I expected...
I didn't think we'd have our own fanclub by the time we returned..
NO WAY?! It's them!! I'll never wash these eyes again!!
AAIIIEEEEE!! I'm too excited to look!
Fear not, your heroes have returned! The genius inventor, Jeff Andonuts, and friends have achieved victory!
To honor your greatness, please accept this gift!
You made this?! Oh...it's wonderful!!
In love with himself
There are more, too!
Oooh... Mine is a painting? But...does my face really look like that...?
Smile?! Here's yer "smile" punk.
Oh! This one is REALLY popular! You're a star Ness!!
Lucky me...

I'm glad they wanted to honor us, but I really hope this doesn't come back to haunt me...
Look on the bright side! The bus is running so we can get to Fourside now!
Hey kids, get on board! This bus will start moving once I figure out how to get my head unstuck from this window
BUS STOP
Finally...we can rest for a little bit...
It's a long trip, so we'll finally get some sleep...
Ness and Paula must have been working tirelessly... They really are amazing people...
Hoo boy, this desert heat is a real scorcher today!
I'd hate to be stuck walking in this, that's for sure...
Coincidentally there's a horrible traffic jam ahead, so if you're headed to Fourside you'll have to go by foot! Try not to spontaneously combust into flames, okay? That happens more often than you'd think!
I... should've seen this coming.
Oh, man. and the deadly creatures. SO many ways to die! Well, good luck!

Well, this is it, guys..
We've gone through worse, right?
Let's just muster up our courage and give it our all!
You got it, Ness!
If Ness and Paula can make it, I guess I can, too...
Minutes later...
Ness...we haven't even crossed the street and I'm already about to collapse...
The only heatwaves we had in Winters came from microwaves.
There's a store across the street... Let's stop there and regroup..
Oh, this is great! We spent a lot of money, but these wet towels will keep us safe for awhile!
Ness and Paula may be okay, but I'll need to be extra careful..
With this, my body is completely cool!
If only i could breathe, it'd be perfect...
I don't think I'm doing it right. . Should I be covering my face first, or does that towel go on last...?
Towels are out of style!
You should've gotten the limited edition Blue Blue robes while they lasted.
Perfect!! Now I look like a true hero! Let's go, guys!!
He...completely forgot about the heat ..

C'mon, guys, it's adventure time! We just have to give it our all!
Holy moley! Why would Master Giygas spawn me out here?! Forget playing rough, I'm gonna play dead!
Well, it looks like we're back to square one... Only a few minutes have passed and we've barely progressed but our supply of towels are gone and... I think I'm even starting to see things...
Only one more cape left...
I'm definitely hallucinating...
Little UFOs that look like Paula...
Bubble Monkeys...
(I'm real, dude.)
...And this thing.
SMILE
SMILE
Seriously, what is this thing??
KABOOM!!
It's nothing SUPER Ness can't handle! He appears in a burst of smoke, ready to take on the most random of encounters!
Wow, that cape is incredible! Super Ness, you must have something like sixteen bits of pure power!
But...um...since when could you shoot lasers out of your nostrils?
I can't go on anymore... The heat is too much... Jeff, it's all up to you now...


came to the conclusion that


Ah, even just walking is getting harder for me...
I can't be the one to burden Ness and Paula,
no matter what I have to press on!

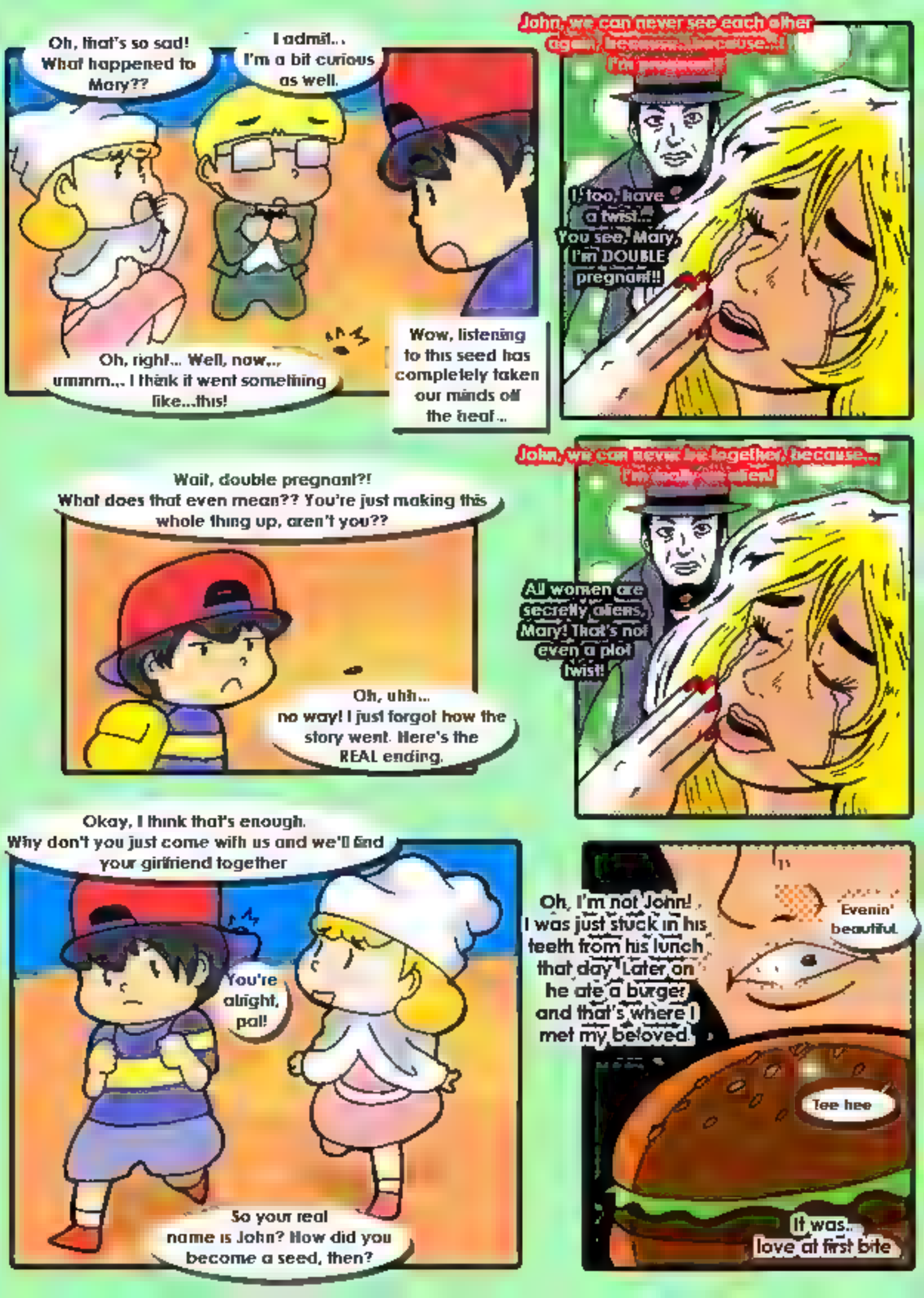
Don't worry, Jeff!
Ness and I can use our PSI, but
I'll take care of you, too!
Ah Paula...
Thanks...

You're not alone, Jeff..
I think I'm starting to hallucinate too...
I swear this sesame seed is talking
to me...
Hey, kid!
There's
someone
suspicious
behind
you!

Photographic genius, fondest of memories,
blah, blah, blah... Look, kid. I'm in a hurry, so you had better
listen up. This black seed, right? Talk to it. Learn its story
Otherwise, the next time I show up?
You Dead. Got it?
G-Gotcha.

So, you'll listen?
Great! I hope you
enjoy seven hour
long stories told in
the blistering heat.
Illusion or not... That guy scares me way
too much not to do what he says...

..Chapter Seven Return to Sender
The prologue is over this is the first chapter of the first chapter
The first chapter is seventeen chapters long by the way.
John, our ace detective hero, raced home to meet Mary. He was much too late, unfortunately. Always putting his work first. John hadn't realized how much Mary grew to resent him over the years
Mary... I'm sorry. Your birthday was today, but...I was much too busy. Please, forgive this old fool.
Every year, it's the same story...
I wait and wait, but you never show up until it's too late.
It's much too late, John...
Mary... Please, let me explain. It was this case, I... I just couldn't let it go. I had...to see it end.
...And now, you can see us end as well...
John...
You've solved the case... of the broken heart...
MARY!! WAIT!!
You crazy dame!!
Come back!!
But Mary would not listen. She had enough suffering. John had hurt her for the last time. She rushed off in a hurry, and then... AND THEN!!
GASP!!
...MARY!!
What will happen to Mary now?! ...Tune in next week to find out!!
JUST TELL US ALREADY!!

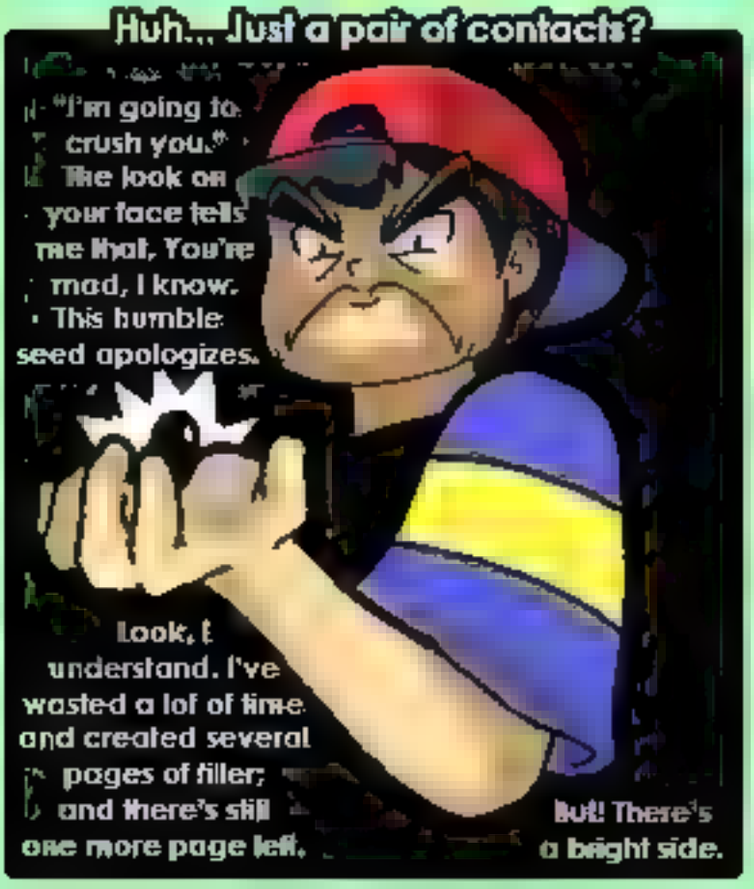

Oh, that's so sad! What happened to Mary??
I admit... I'm a bit curious as well.
Oh, right... Well, now... ummm... I think it went something like...this!
Wow, listening to this seed has completely taken our minds off the heat...
John, we can never see each other again, because...I'm pregnant!!
I, too, have a twist... You see, Mary, I'm DOUBLE pregnant!!
Wait, double pregnant?! What does that even mean?? You're just making this whole thing up, aren't you??
Oh, uhh... no way! I just forgot how the story went. Here's the REAL ending.
John, we can never be together, because... I'm really an alien!
All women are secretly aliens, Mary! That's not even a plot twist!
Okay, I think that's enough. Why don't you just come with us and we'll find your girlfriend together
You're alright, pal!
So your real name is John? How did you become a seed, then?
Oh, I'm not John! I was just stuck in his teeth from his lunch that day. Later on he ate a burger and that's where I met my beloved.
Evenin' beautiful
Tee hee
It was... love at first bite

(I'm so thankful for this wonderful oasis! It's very refreshing!)
(It'd sure be unlucky to walk right past it.)

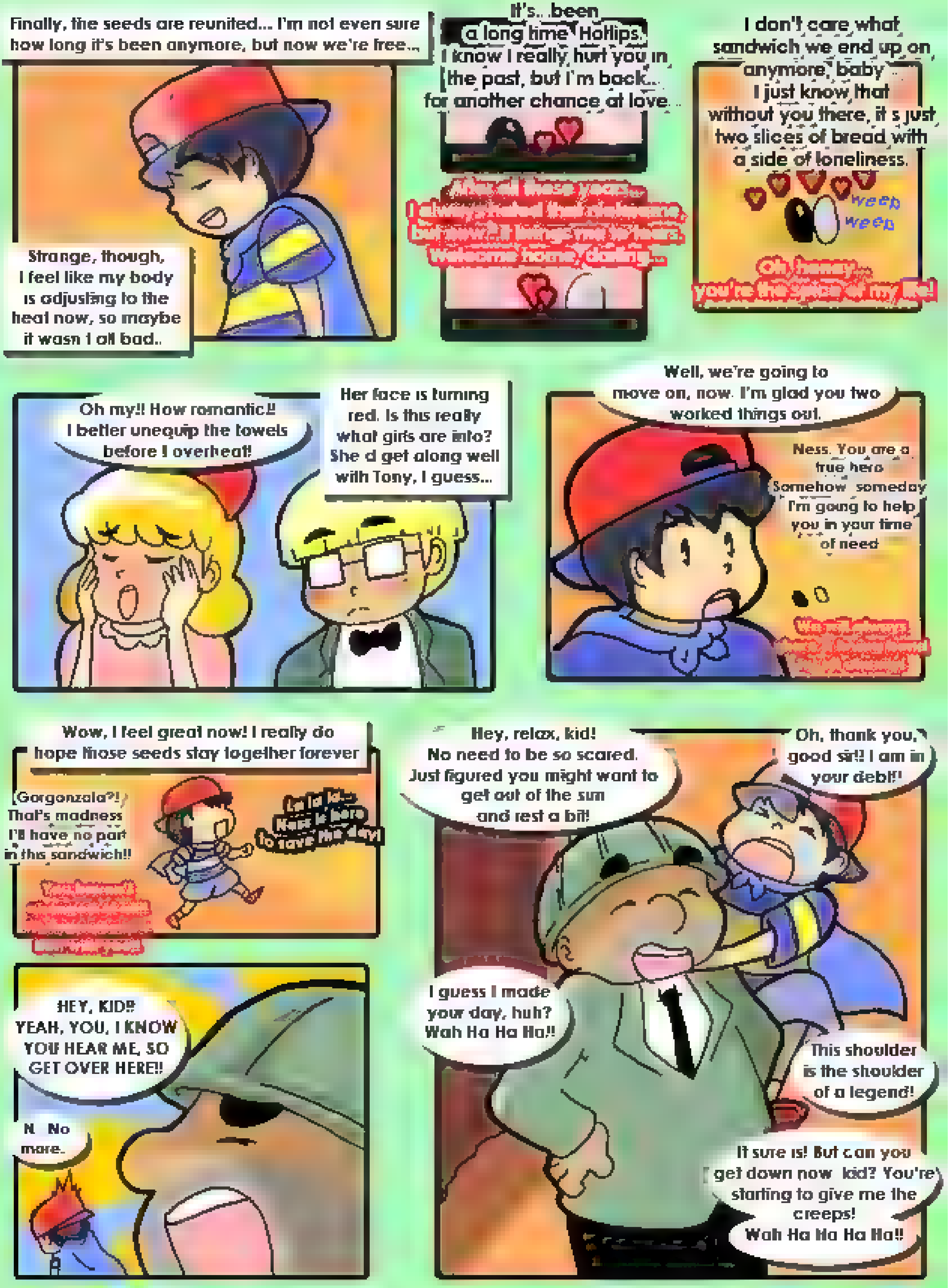
I get the feeling we missed out on a very cool and refreshing thing just now, like an oasis...
PSI Freeze!
This "cool and refreshing" thing is all in your mind, pal! Forget about it!

Oh? Look, buddy! See that sparkle in the opposite direction of where we're going?
Barely...
That's her! I'm sure of it! Let's go!
Let's stop to rest for a second

Well, take your time, I'll go on ahead and you can catch up!
Why do you have limbs?! You're pushing this to a dangerous level of absurdity!
Walk or talk, you can only choose one!!
Worry about it later! Let's go!


Huh... Just a pair of contacts?
"I'm going to crush you." The look on your face tells me that. You're mad, I know. This humble seed apologizes.
Look, I understand. I've wasted a lot of time and created several pages of filler; and there's still one more page left.
But! There's a bright side.

The contacts? All yours. I have a wonderful pair of glasses already that go great with my favorite winter outfit.
All of those times mom told me not to talk to strangers... If only I'd listened...

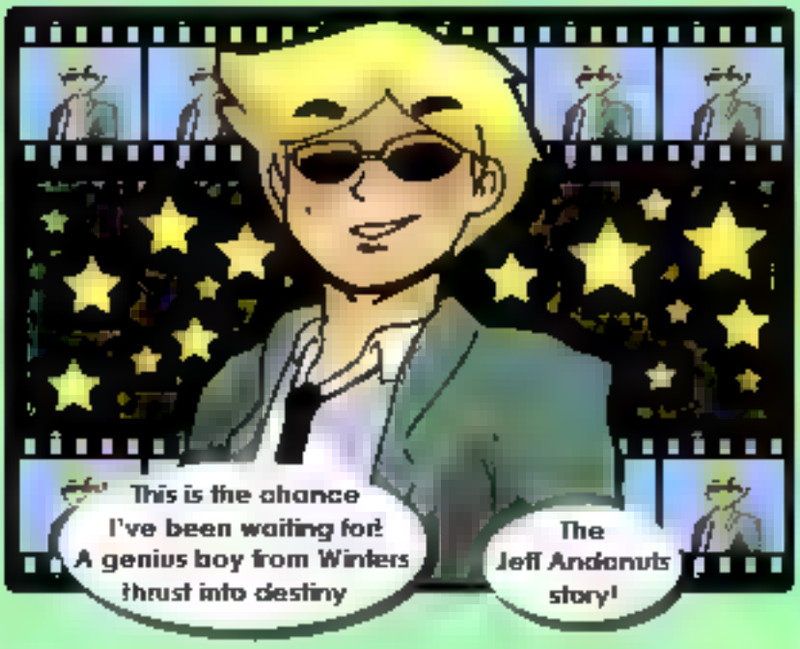


Finally, the seeds are reunited... I'm not even sure how long it's been anymore, but now we're free...
Strange, though, I feel like my body is adjusting to the heat now, so maybe it wasn't all bad..
It's... been a long time, Hotlips. I know I really hurt you in the past, but I'm back... for another chance at love...
I don't care what sandwich we end up on anymore, baby... I just know that without you there, it's just two slices of bread with a side of loneliness.
weep
weep
Oh, honey... you're the spice of my life!
Oh my!! How romantic!! I better unequip the towels before I overheat!
Her face is turning red. Is this really what girls are into? She'd get along well with Tony, I guess...
Well, we're going to move on, now. I'm glad you two worked things out.
Ness. You are a true hero. Somehow, someday I'm going to help you in your time of need.
Wow, I feel great now! I really do hope those seeds stay together forever
Gorgonzola?! That's madness. I'll have no part in this sandwich!!
La la la... Ness is here to save the day!
HEY, KID!! YEAH, YOU, I KNOW YOU HEAR ME, SO GET OVER HERE!!
N... No more..
Hey, relax, kid! No need to be so scared. Just figured you might want to get out of the sun and rest a bit!
Oh, thank you, good sir!! I am in your debt!
I guess I made your day, huh? Wah Ha Ha Ha!!
This shoulder is the shoulder of a legend!
It sure is! But can you get down now, kid? You're starting to give me the creeps! Wah Ha Ha Ha Ha!!

Although we managed to get a nice place to sleep, that was still one rough nap.
Paula got up before I did, apparently, so I'll just let Ness rest until she returns.
I don't want to ride the pony...
Hurgh! My stomach is at its limits... I'll have to give up on that request, I'm way too hungry to dig ever again.
It sure is tough sleeping with a spring in your back
I bet that coil snake didn't help, either!
Have a good rest, kid? Your girly friend went on ahead to find the main road, but you guys are safe from here on out.
Still, you must be on some amazing adventure! I don't suppose you picked up any snacks along the way, huh?
Snacks, huh? Well, after letting us rest, it's the least I can do in return..
H...Here, please hurry up and take it before I change my mind.
Must... resist...
It even has a slice... "gulp" ...of my favorite cake...
An entire picnic lunch?! I'll eat like a king tonight!! Okay, kid it's decided. If I dig up any gold, it's yours! Who needs gold when you have cake, anyways?!
Sorry I overslept. What did I miss?
Nothing pertaining to the main plot, I'm sure
I see. Say, where's Paula?
She went ahead to find the main road
This is it! Now we can finally leave the desert! Fourside, here we come!!

So I guess we're done with the desert now, huh? You can rest easy now cape...
I have to admit, I'm a bit jealous... I've never believed in magic but... that is one awesome cape.

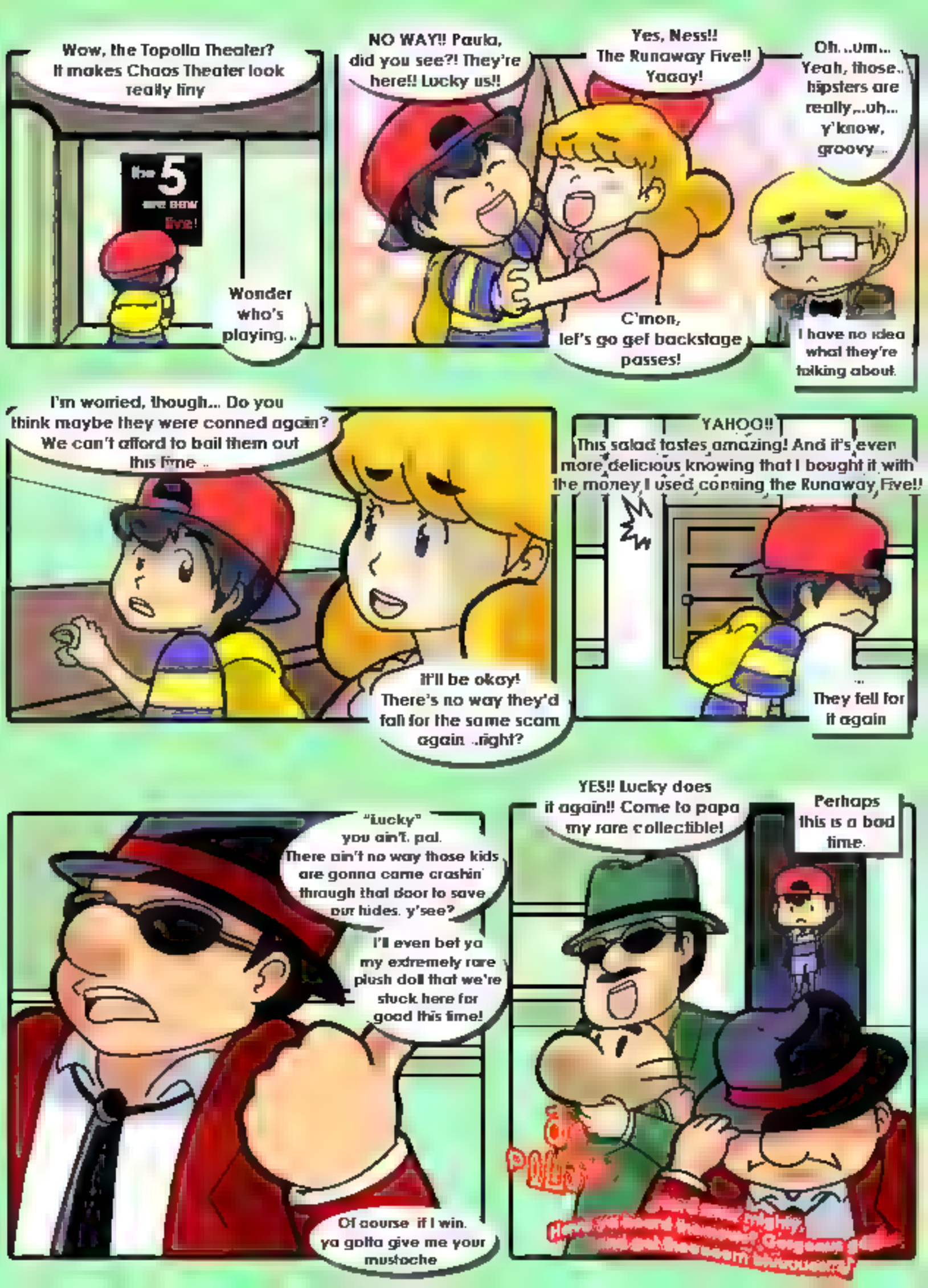
Now that we're going to Fourside, we'll have to dress the part!
We'll be very rich once people find out we're heroes!
Oh, Ness! We'll be invited to all of the big parties!

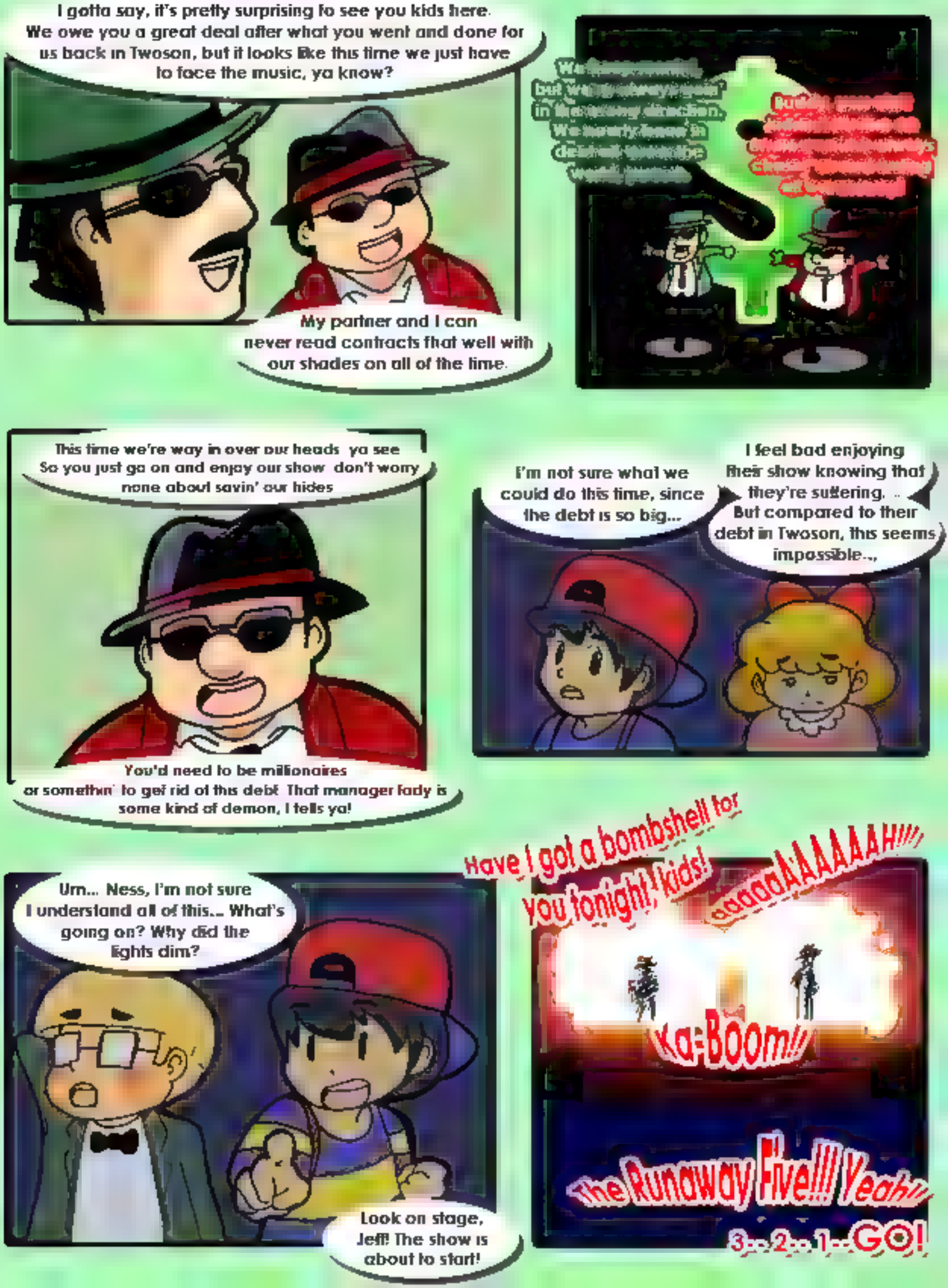

This is the chance I've been waiting for! A genius boy from Winters thrust into destiny
The Jeff Andonuts story!

happen once we dug too deep...

The buildings here are so tall! I've never seen anything this grand before...
I've seen pictures, but Fourside always seemed like a dream to me!

Mother's Bored Tech Shop
50% OFF!!
REMEMBER, WHEN MOM'S BORED, YOU SAVE BIG!
N...Ness! The sanctuary!! I've found it!!!
I'm ...not so sure that counts, Jeff...


Wow, the Topolla Theater? It makes Chaos Theater look really tiny
the 5 are new five!
Wonder who's playing...
NO WAY!! Paula, did you see?! They're here!! Lucky us!!
Yes, Ness!! The Runaway Five!! Yaaay!
C'mon, let's go get backstage passes!
Oh...um... Yeah, those hipsters are really...uh... y'know, groovy...
I have no idea what they're talking about.
I'm worried, though... Do you think maybe they were conned again? We can't afford to bail them out this time...
It'll be okay! There's no way they'd fall for the same scam again...right?
YAHOO!! This salad tastes amazing! And it's even more delicious knowing that I bought it with the money I used conning the Runaway Five!!
...They fell for it again
"Lucky" you ain't, pal. There ain't no way those kids are gonna come crashin' through that door to save our hides, y'see?
I'll even bet ya my extremely rare plush doll that we're stuck here for good this time!
Of course if I win, ya gotta give me your mustache
YES!! Lucky does it again!! Come to papa my rare collectible!
Perhaps this is a bad time.

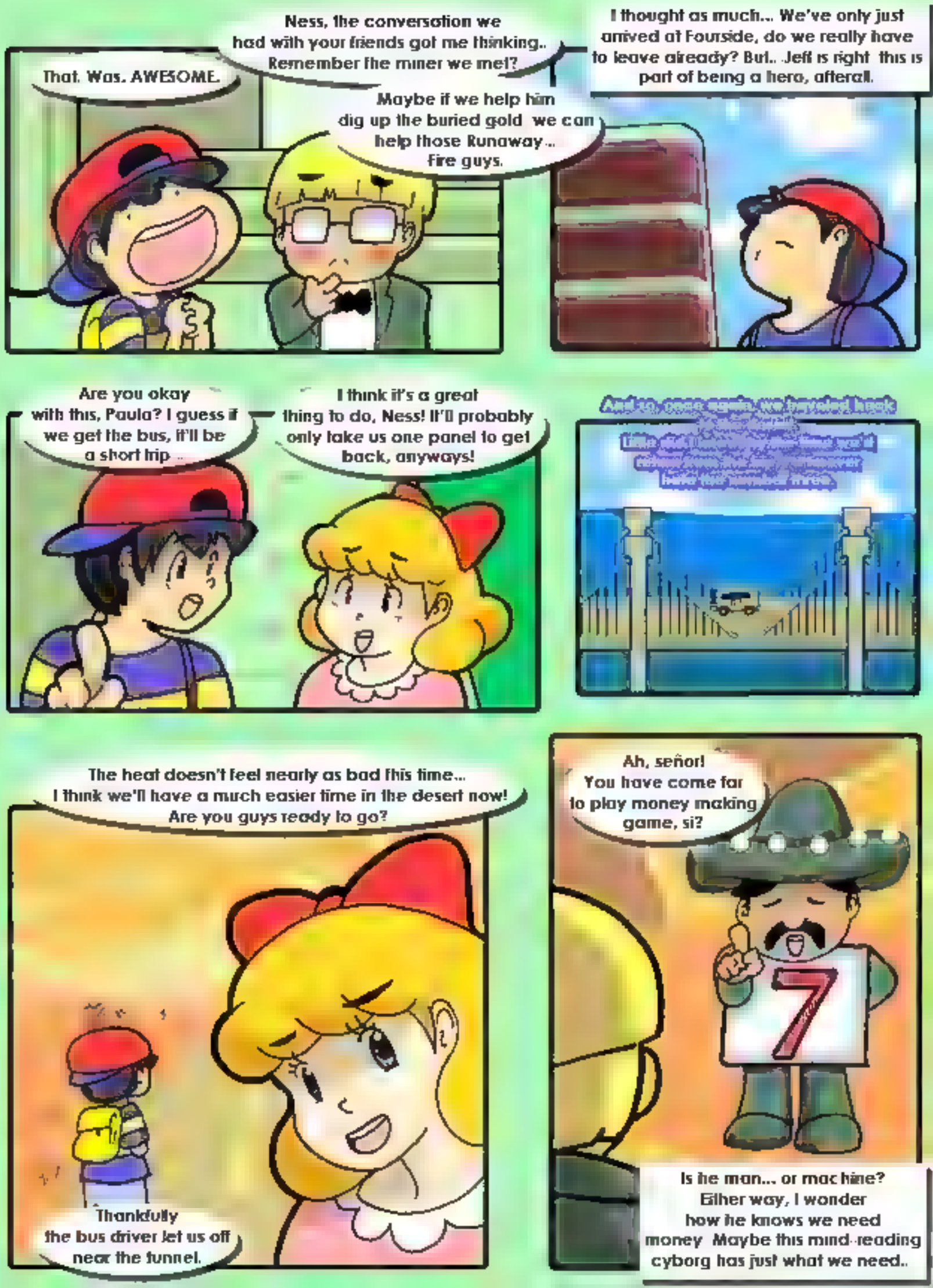

I gotta say, it's pretty surprising to see you kids here. We owe you a great deal after what you went and done for us back in Twoson, but it looks like this time we just have to face the music, ya know?
My partner and I can never read contracts that well with our shades on all of the time.
This time we're way in over our heads ya see So you just go on and enjoy our show don't worry none about savin' our hides
You'd need to be millionaires or somethin' to get rid of this debt That manager lady is some kind of demon, I tells ya!
I'm not sure what we could do this time, since the debt is so big...
I feel bad enjoying their show knowing that they're suffering. .. But compared to their debt in Twoson, this seems impossible..,
Um... Ness, I'm not sure I understand all of this... What's going on? Why did the lights dim?
Look on stage, Jeff! The show is about to start!
Have I got a bombshell for you tonight! Kids!
eeeeeAAAAAAH!!!!
Ka-Boom!!
The Runaway Five!!! Yeah!
3...2...1...GO!

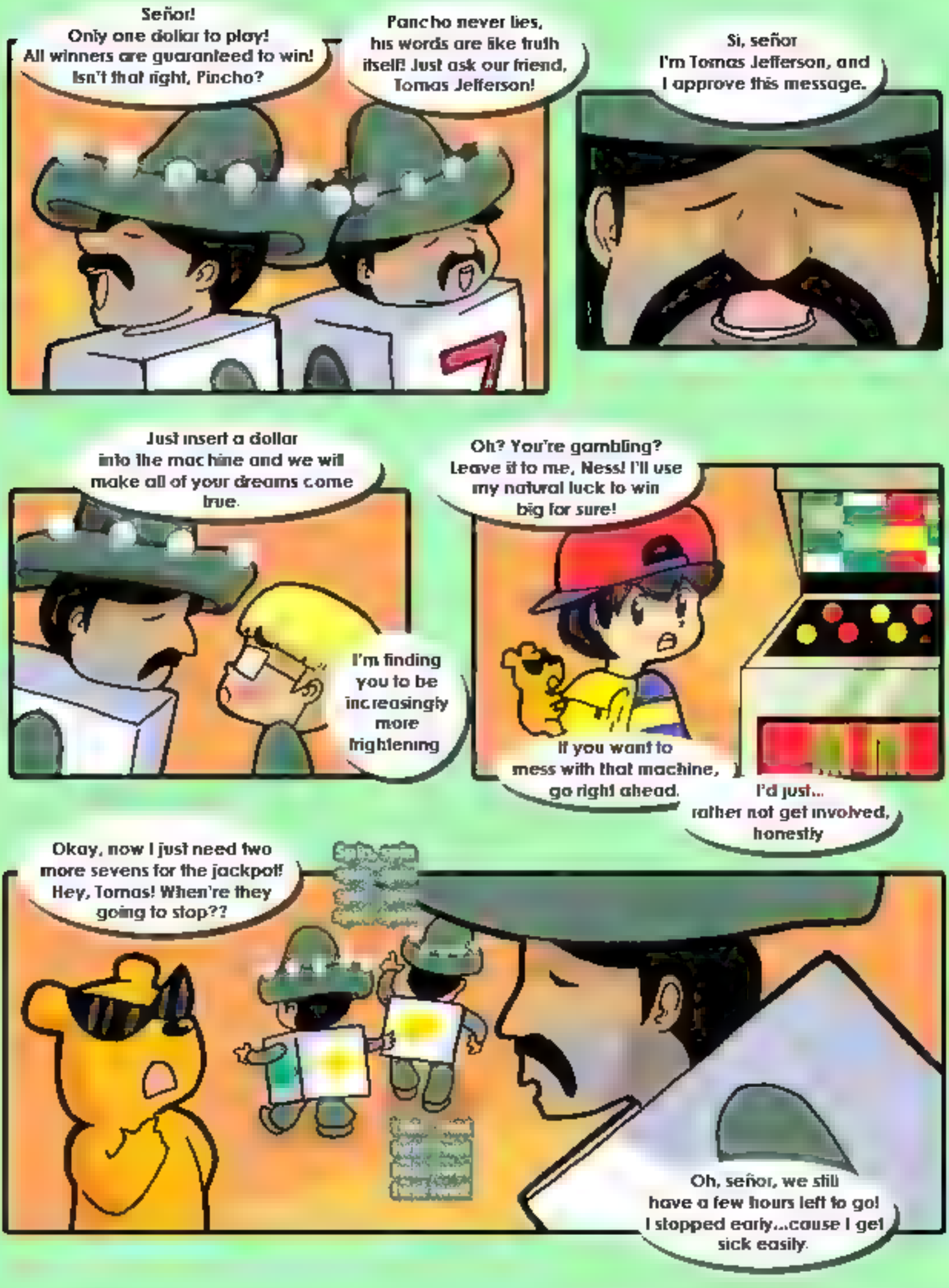
One!
TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!
FIVE!
FIVE!

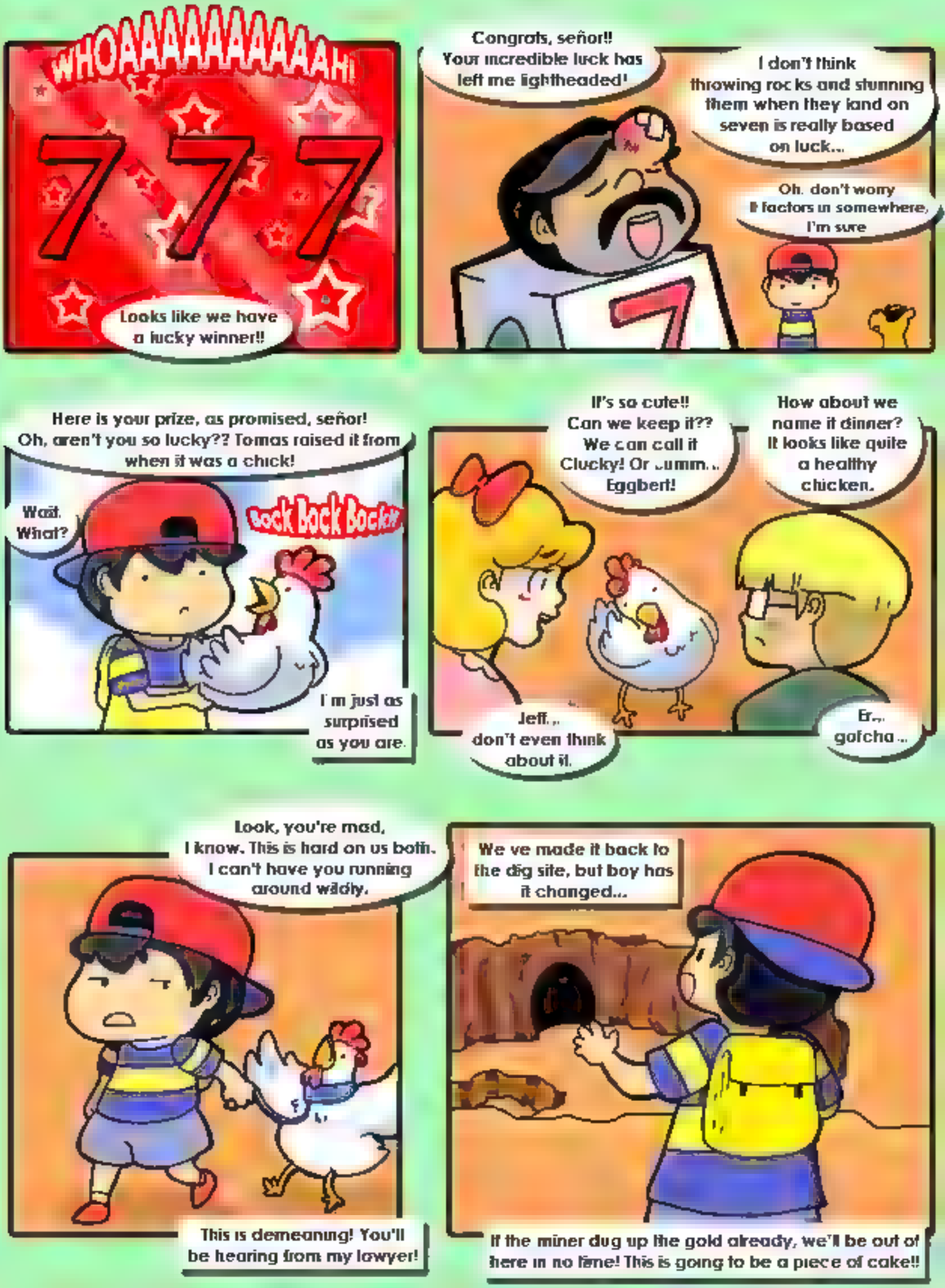
Hey Brother, let's get movin'!
I hear ya brother, but where's your groovin'?
What're ya sayin'? I've got the skills!
Then keep up so we can pay the bills!
The Bills ♪
The Bills
We want to pay the... BILLS! ♪

Wheeen put to the teeeest
Art
Engli
History
Athleti
We'll give it our beeeest!
While runnin' arouuund
We hope luck will be
??
FOUND! Ohhh yeaaah!
So come on baby, cosign if ya like the show!
Oh just maybe, they'll let us go!
CONTRACT
I hearby declare to help repay all debt accrued by the runaway five

Cause Moooney ♪
No Moooney ♪
(That's what's really hot!)
(It's what I really want!)
hot giiiirls! ♪
hot faaaame! ♪
Just MONEY! ♪
Just MONEY! ♪
That's what I WANT! ♪


That. Was. AWESOME.
Ness, the conversation we had with your friends got me thinking.. Remember the miner we met?
Maybe if we help him dig up the buried gold we can help those Runaway... Fire guys.
I thought as much... We've only just arrived at Fourside, do we really have to leave already? But.. Jeff is right this is part of being a hero, afterall.
Are you okay with this, Paula? I guess if we get the bus, it'll be a short trip..
I think it's a great thing to do, Ness! It'll probably only take us one panel to get back, anyways!
And so, once again, we boarded back
The heat doesn't feel nearly as bad this time... I think we'll have a much easier time in the desert now! Are you guys ready to go?
Thankfully the bus driver let us off near the tunnel.
Ah, señor! You have come far to play money making game, si?
7
Is he man... or machine? Either way, I wonder how he knows we need money Maybe this mind-reading cyborg has just what we need..


Señor!
Only one dollar to play!
All winners are guaranteed to win!
Isn't that right, Pincho?
Pancho never lies, his words are like truth itself! Just ask our friend, Tomas Jefferson!
Si, señor
I'm Tomas Jefferson, and I approve this message.
Just insert a dollar into the machine and we will make all of your dreams come true.
I'm finding you to be increasingly more frightening
Oh? You're gambling? Leave it to me, Ness! I'll use my natural luck to win big for sure!
If you want to mess with that machine, go right ahead.
I'd just... rather not get involved, honestly
Okay, now I just need two more sevens for the jackpot! Hey, Tomas! When're they going to stop??
Oh, señor, we still have a few hours left to go! I stopped early...cause I get sick easily.


WHOAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
7 7 7
Looks like we have a lucky winner!!
Congrats, señor!! Your incredible luck has left me lightheaded!
I don't think throwing rocks and stunning them when they land on seven is really based on luck...
Oh, don't worry it factors in somewhere, I'm sure
Here is your prize, as promised, señor! Oh, aren't you so lucky?? Tomas raised it from when it was a chick!
Wait. What?
Bock Bock Bock!!
I'm just as surprised as you are.
It's so cute!! Can we keep it?? We can call it Clucky! Or umm... Eggbert!
How about we name it dinner? It looks like quite a healthy chicken.
Jeff... don't even think about it.
Er... gotcha...
Look, you're mad, I know. This is hard on us both. I can't have you running around wildly.
This is demeaning! You'll be hearing from my lawyer!
We've made it back to the dig site, but boy has it changed...
If the miner dug up the gold already, we'll be out of here in no time! This is going to be a piece of cake!!

This hole is incredible! Just how did he manage to dig all of this out so quickly...?
This isn't just a hole, it's a work of art!
Ha ha! You kids are much too kind! I'm surprised you returned so suddenly, but your timing is perfect! You...
...err... what's with the chicken?
Nevermind that, it's not very important Anyways, do you need help digging up the gold?
Digging is no problem but monsters are filling the tunnels! They think it's a dungeon or something. You take em out, the gold is as good as yours!
So all we have to do is clear out the monsters, huh? Looks like we've already got a bit of company!
NESS... This is your final stand... I'll make this your resting place, after what you did to big brother Andy! Last words?!
You think I'M Ness? I guess I really do look like the main character, huh? He and I are both pretty similar y'know!
SMAAAAAASH!!
When you see your brother again tell him to expect guests!! You go squish now!!
Well... I guess we have... some differences.

Well, that's one monster down... I wonder how many we'll have to take care of before the place is safe, though.

I guess I'll just have to keep smashing things until Jeff lets me know we're done!

Hey, Ness! Jeff found a tunnel ahead, so go this way once you finish here!

Sure thing, Paula! This...won't take very long.

I died as I lived... thirsty

Since Ness is finishing off the easy stuff, I may as well get an idea of where the real threat lies...

...and judging by that skull, I'd guess this is probably the right direction.

Though, I can't say I really see anything menacing about...this.

Hey, you with the face, and the glasses Come here!

There's something very important you need to see. It's crucial information to your survival.

You're not going to try and sell me life insurance or something, are you?

No, no! Look, see here? Third Strongest Mole, baby Amazing, right??

#3 of the Year!

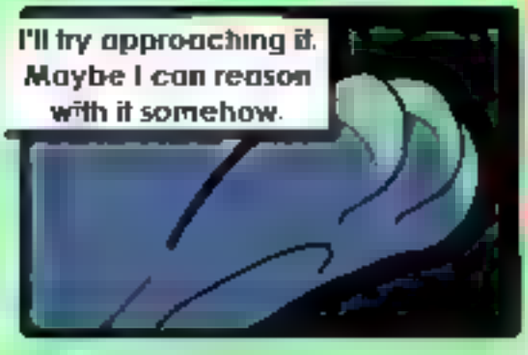
Ah. I see now. You're absolutely insane.

You think you're too good for the number three, huh? I bet you're one of those types that always wants to be number one. Well, I'll beat the number one out of you, and maybe even the number two while I'm at it!
I guess I have to do this one solo... What happened to Paula and Ness...?
I don't get it... I went down the tunnel after Jeff, but I didn't see him at all... Now that other ladder took me back to where I was with Ness, but he's gone, too! What do I do??
Yeeeesss!
FFFFFF!
OH THE HUMANITY!!
Oh, great! I found another hole! Maybe Jeff continued down the tunnel to this one?
Unf... Too many cakes... This is exhausting...
Jeff, if you're down there you better not look up!!
Helloooo? Is anyone there?? Ness, Jeff, it's me, Paula! Are you guys okay??
Oh? I hear someone nearby...
Ho ho, I did it! A crown made out of the finest construction paper. Now no one can disprove that I am TRULY the third strongest!
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED TO FIND!!
Oh, how embarrassing... I can't believe someone walked in on me while I was changing..
Um, sorry... I'll be going now, I...have to go find my friends!
Your friends? Are there three of you...?
I see.. You've come to challenge me for mastery of the number three!
Well, take it from me. IF YOU DARE.

GRAAAAAAHHH!!
I'm sick and tired of all these ants trying to jump me!! The next ant I see is REALLY going to get it!
He beat everyone in one shot! I better call for backup..
Whew, good, he fell for my bluff. I ran out of PP awhile ago, so until I catch up to Paula and Jeff, I better play it safe...
This is far from over!!
Boy, Ness, you're lousy at following directions. We probably went in the complete opposite direction of Paula and Jeff by this point
What're you going to do now?
Oh, shut up. I'm not good at mazes, okay?!
Why don't you be more useful and help me find them?
Why don't you lose some weight?
Good idea!
WAAAHHHH!!
Boy, I feel lighter already!
Kathunk!!
Ooof! Good thing I was stopped by this big, mole-shaped rock...
I understand, ugly. I'd be mad too if I had to live with a face like that.
Seriously, though, were you in an accident, or was your mom spanking the wrong end all these years? I guess I can't blame her, I'd make the same mistake.
3
Somehow, I think the readers will understand if I skip my intro and go straight to the violent beating.

T...This "thing" is so mysterious... Did it come here to challenge me, knowing I am the third strongest? Or is it...a friend?

I'll try approaching it. Maybe I can reason with it somehow.



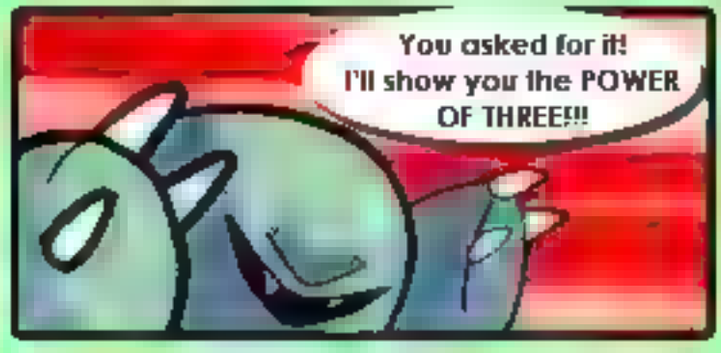
G-GAH!! A sneak attack?! I must've barely dodged its fiendish assault!

Oh, you are sneaky indeed, my daring foe. To so boldly challenge the third strongest of this hole... I cannot hold back against someone of this caliber.

Suddenly I get this feeling that I've completely overlooked something...

I think I've also somehow managed to get even more lost than I was before...

You asked for it! I'll show you the POWER OF THREE!!!

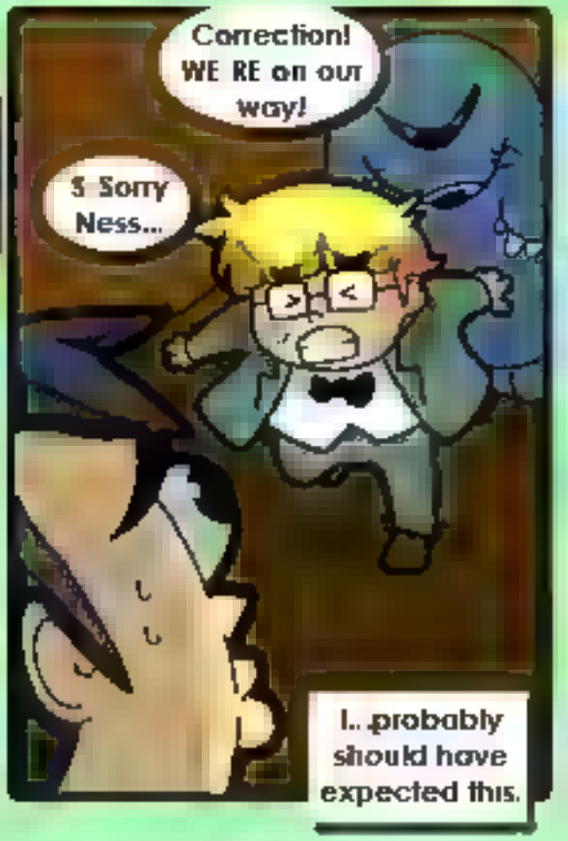


That was totally not the reaction I expected...

I really don't have time to talk, so don't take this personally. Now dig me a hole to where my friends are and get out, or I'll hit you again.
BASH!!
Ah! My head!! I didn't even see him attack. ..how did I get hit?!
Ho ho, you must be pretty surprised right about now. I guess you've only just discovered my power shield, huh?
Only the third strongest mole can use a skill as absolutely third-rate as this! I am not that powerful. To be honest, there are two others stronger than I am. But my power is enough for the likes of you!
Great, so I have to deal with two more of these guys?
Lucky me. Without any PP, I'm going to be in a lot of trouble trying to do this alone
As much as I dislike it...
..I'll just have to run for now!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
DASH!!
Ah, it's Reginald! I know this is a long shot, but maybe he actually managed to find something...
Ness! I've been looking all over for you!
Finally. I've managed to return! You can take things from here, right?? I make fun of you at times, but you're a pretty reliable guy! Well, go get 'em, pal!
Is this the line for the chase sequence?
As bad as this is, I get the feeling it's about to get a whole lot worse...

My fallen ant comrades... I will see to it personally that Ness is stomped out for good! Too long now have we been insulted by the loss of our big brother, and now even our home isn't safe from his wickedness.

Growing up in a cramped ant farm, our big brother raised each and every one of us by himself with the utmost care. Never asking for anything in return, he simply wanted the best for us.



Which way should we go?? There are already two other moles coming up behind me!
If you're out of PP, then there's no choice...
Let's run towards the entrance and look for Paula!
Where have you been?? And what happened to your leash?
Cluck Cluck!
Look, there are two things of importance right now. Those are not on the list
I don t suppose you happen to speak chicken?
Frankly, it's not a language I've been
in.
They're all mine!!
Betrayed... by my own chicken...
I'M A MOLE! AND I'M ON FIRE!!
Um... Ness, I don't mean to alarm you. Well, maybe I do. You see, we have a problem.... There s a fifth mole Also, he's on fire.
Oh, Ness!! Jeff!! I've finally found you! I'll be right over just let me finish selling this mole on fire!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME?! I CAN'T GET ANY MORE ON FIRE!!
I'd recognize that fire anywhere!! PAULA!!

Great job as usual today. Whaddya say we head over to Duster's and get some cheese on the rocks? My treat!
YAAARRR!!!
Ooh sounds great! It's hard to find a good cheese bar in this area. but cheese heads rave about their selection!
YOU get them! YOU RE the shongest one here
No YOU are! m number three!
GRAAH!!
NESS!! YOU'LL PAY.
Oh, by the way! Did you hear about Ralph?? He hit it big time! A major promotion. The higher ups bumped him up to the Stonehenge job out in Winters!
No kiddin ! Well, Ralph was always a genius at finding exits y'know? That guy is totally going places I mean, big cheese material!
Stay still you darn kids! The third shongest mole commands you!
You mean the SECOND shongest
Totally! Let's hope he remembers his old pals, and sends us a line now that this dig site is almost done! Who knows where we'll be transfered next!
Wah ha ha ha! Maybe if we re lucky they'll ever send us out to Summers! Now THAT would be fvin !
Please spare me I meant no harm!
You said it, brother! Sun beach, and babes?! Sign me up!

It looks like our time has come... The time for us to go up to that big number three in the sky...

With Mondo gone, nobody could ever truly replace him as the third strongest... I understand now, my friends... let us rest... in peace...

Now that this is all over, I wonder which of the moles really was the third strongest...

They all seemed about the same to me...

I think it was the one Paula set on fire. He really hung in there...

Ho ho...
You're safe for now, kid, but I'm always watching.
Never Forget.

We can finally go back, then? Hurray!!

Ah, kid!
You're incredible!! Just give me a little bit and the gold will be as good as yours!

Once we get back to Fourside, let's tell the Runaway Five the good news!

I can't wait!

They'll be thrilled!!

NEEEESS!!

Special delivery comin' through!

I'm a little disturbed by how common it's become for random people to scream out my name...

The moment you've been waiting for is here!!

George Montague finally appears!

Well, at least this time it's someone harmless... Well, hopefully...

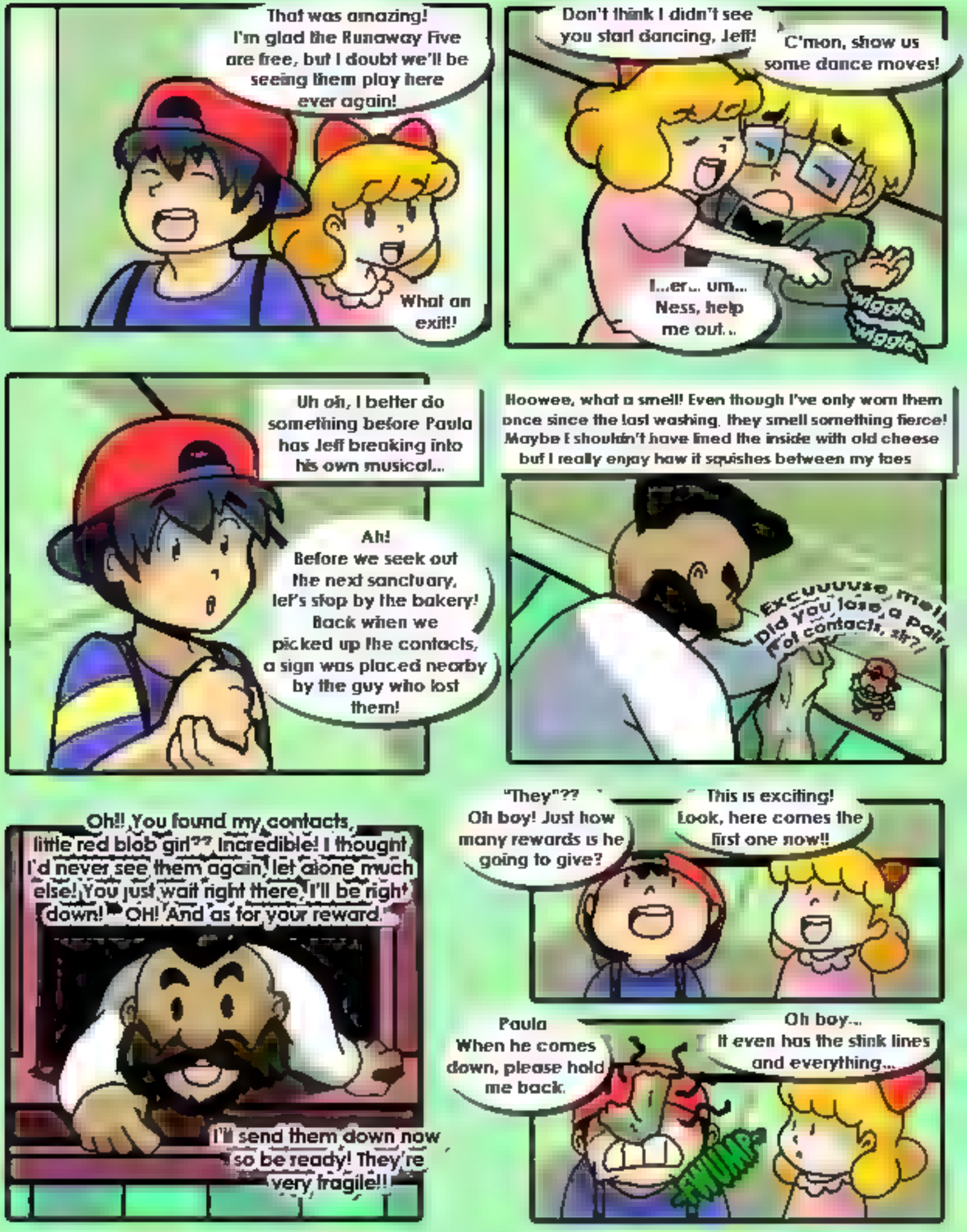
I guess my job here is done. It was short, but somehow I get the feeling those kids will be alright on their own.
I may've just broke something.
TOPOLLA
M...My heart... is about to burst out of my chest...
Who'd have thought a diamond would be my reward for years of ripping off stupid musicians...
I can't move another inch... Just where does Ness get his energy from...?
Okay, guys! Let's meet with the manager and save the Runaway Five!
I bet we'll even get another musical out of it!
Ohohohoho! I can even smell exactly how rich I'm going to be, and what a stink it is!! It smells...like moles...
Well, a deal's a deal! The Runaway Five are free to go!
I hope that diamond crushes you in your sleep, lady
WHOOOOA! Kid, you're AMAZING! You've saved our hides once again!
CRASH!!
DO YOU NOT KNOW HOW TO ENTER A ROOM NORMALLY?! I DON'T GET DOOR INSURANCE, OKAY?! STOP BREAKING ALL OF THE THEATER'S DOORS!!

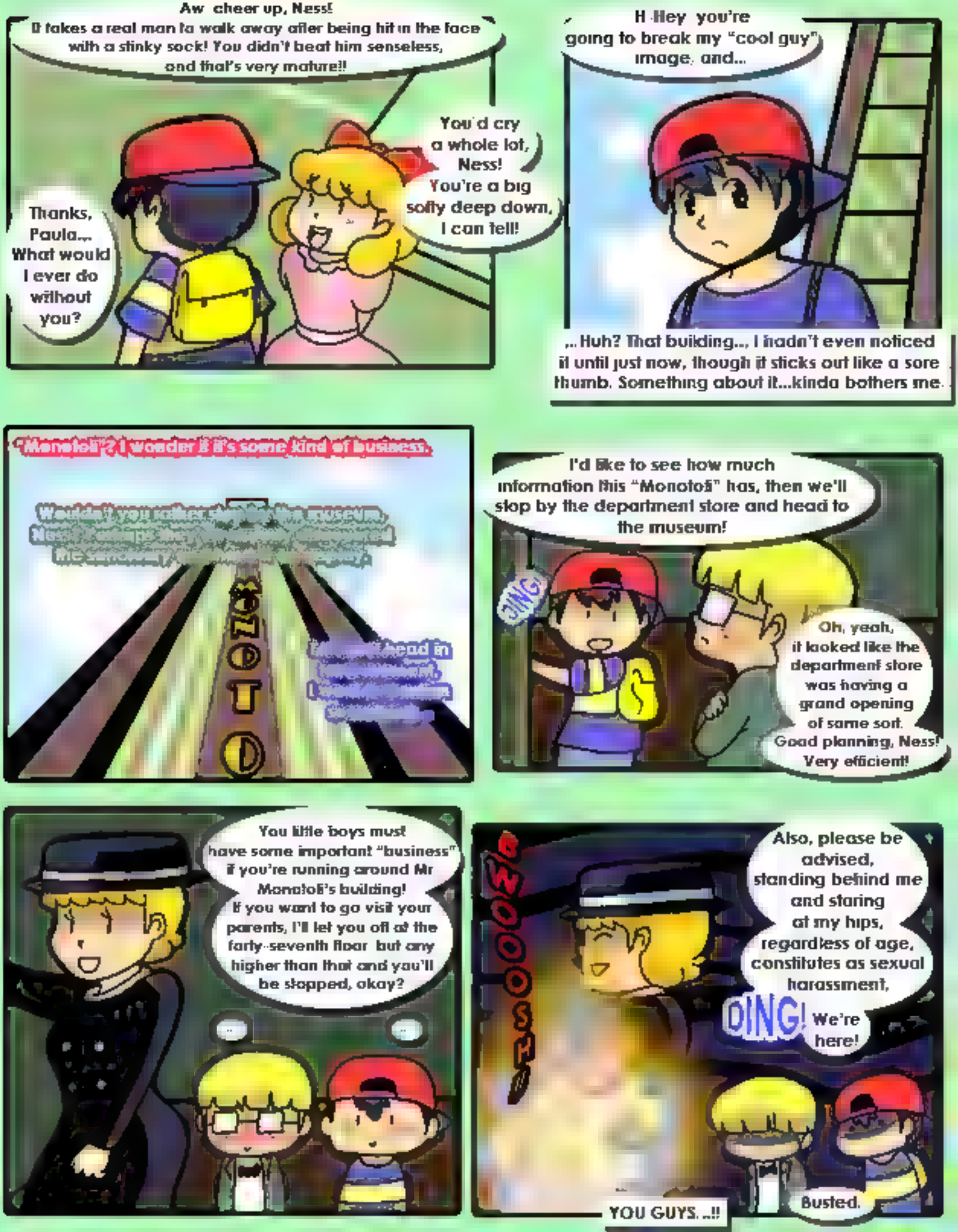
Kid, you're like some kind of magic money fairy! Lemme rub ya for good luck! Maybe now we won't get into trouble anymore, huh?!
I... don't want to be a fairy...
Alright, kids, you just hang in there and get ready for a show so amazing it'll shine brighter than the stars!
I can't believe how lucky we are!! Ness, this is soooo exciting!!
They even gave us complimentary hats!
We just gave up millions of dollars, but somehow I feel like this will be worth it!
WHOOOOOA!! Who do you think we are, baby?!
Get an extra pair of pants ready, 'cause you're gonna need 'em!!
This is our last show.
da da da da da da
We're free from our debt, da da da da da da
Of that you can bet! da da da da da da
It's time that we go...
da da da da da da

We're the Runaway Five.
and we're comin' atcha liiiive!
click
clack
Me too~!

We're the Runaway Five.
FIVE!
Got a woman by our side!
Look at those thighs!
Now we're dancin' to the groove.
Form a Conga Line!
Showin' 'em how we move!
She's our Valentine!

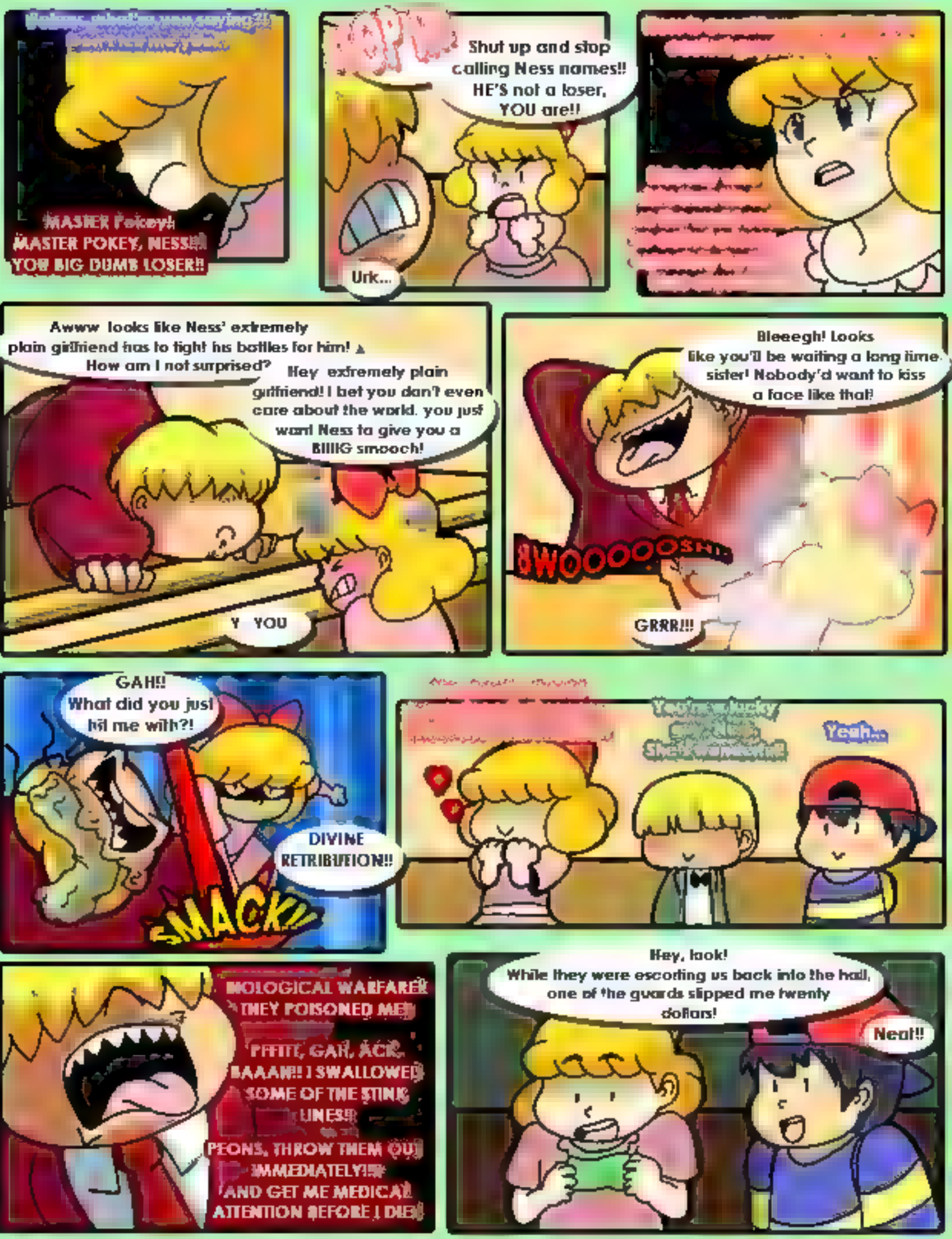
Sorry guys, you're not my type!
Who will the chopper?
I only have eyes for the stage!
Givin' it the business
Our ride's here so now let's go!
Who is that guy...?
Hope you all enjoyed the show!
Guess we'll never know...
There's no exit, so I guess we'll just... make ONE!
M...My theater...

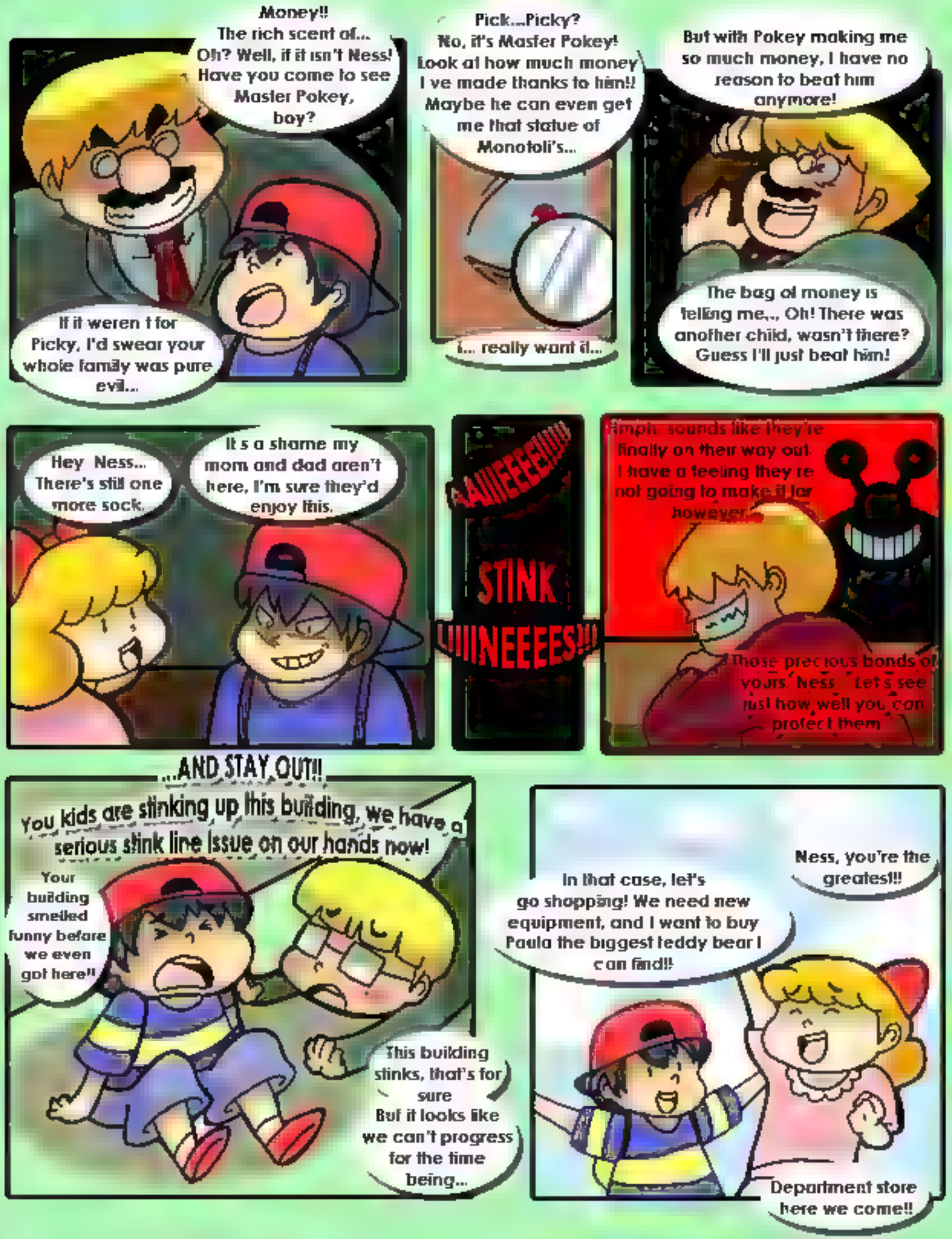

That was amazing! I'm glad the Runaway Five are free, but I doubt we'll be seeing them play here ever again!
What an exit!!
Don't think I didn't see you start dancing, Jeff!
C'mon, show us some dance moves!
I...er... um... Ness, help me out...
Wiggle Wiggle
Uh oh, I better do something before Paula has Jeff breaking into his own musical...
Ah! Before we seek out the next sanctuary, let's stop by the bakery! Back when we picked up the contacts, a sign was placed nearby by the guy who lost them!
Hoowee, what a smell! Even though I've only worn them once since the last washing, they smell something fierce! Maybe I shouldn't have lined the inside with old cheese but I really enjoy how it squishes between my toes
Excuuuuse me! Did you lose a pair of contacts, sir?!
Oh!! You found my contacts, little red blob girl?? Incredible! I thought I'd never see them again, let alone much else! You just wait right there, I'll be right down! OH! And as for your reward...
I'll send them down now so be ready! They're very fragile!!
"They"?? Oh boy! Just how many rewards is he going to give?
This is exciting! Look, here comes the first one now!!
Paula When he comes down, please hold me back.
Oh boy... It even has the stink lines and everything...
FWUMP

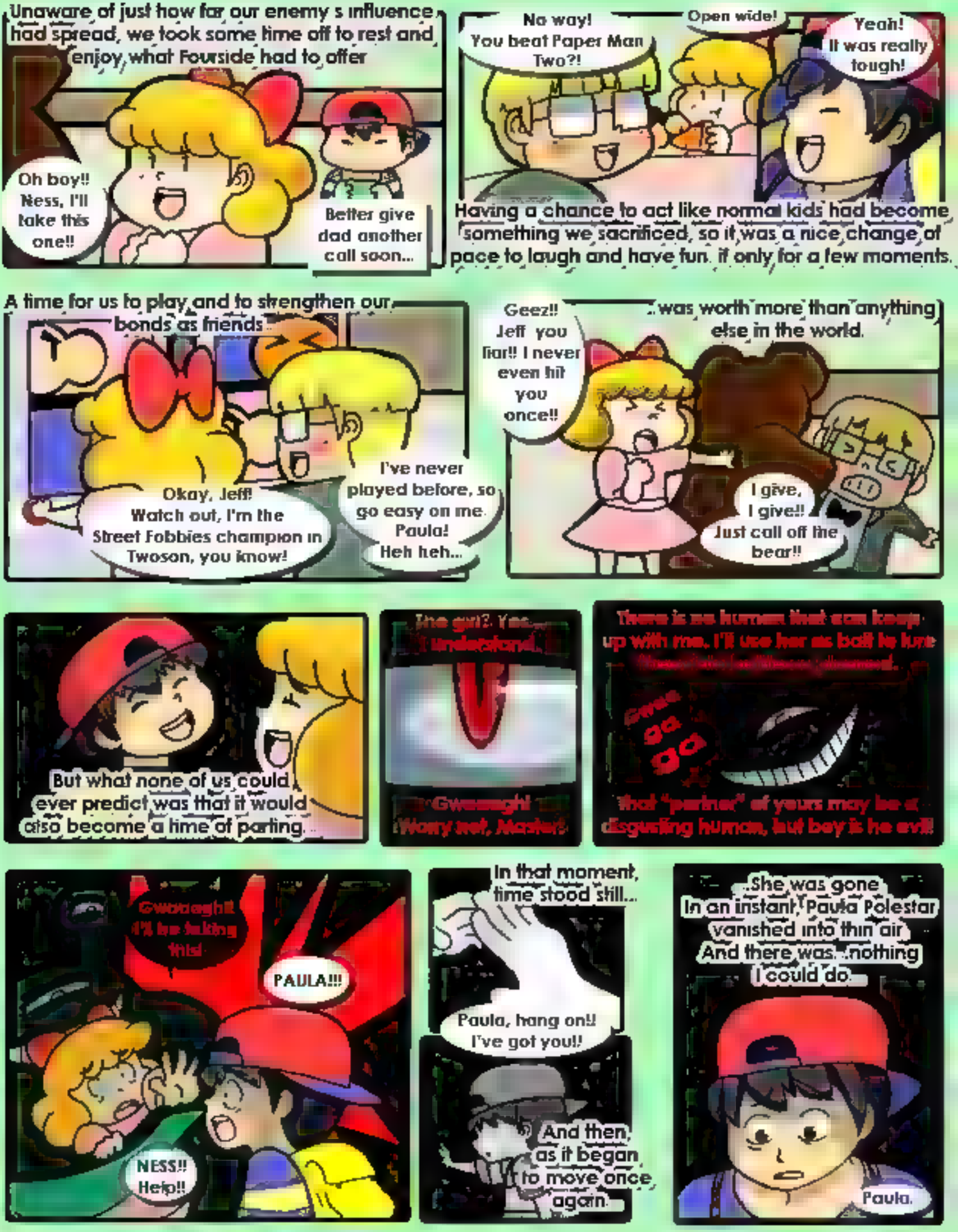

Aw cheer up, Ness!
It takes a real man to walk away after being hit in the face with a stinky sock! You didn't beat him senseless, and that's very mature!!
You'd cry a whole lot, Ness! You're a big softy deep down, I can tell!
Thanks, Paula... What would I ever do without you?
H-Hey you're going to break my "cool guy" image, and...
...Huh? That building..., I hadn't even noticed it until just now, though it sticks out like a sore thumb. Something about it...kinda bothers me.
"Monotofi"? I wonder if it's some kind of business.
I'd like to see how much information this "Monotofi" has, then we'll stop by the department store and head to the museum!
DING!
Oh, yeah, it looked like the department store was having a grand opening of some sort. Good planning, Ness! Very efficient!
You little boys must have some important "business" if you're running around Mr Monotofi's building! If you want to go visit your parents, I'll let you off at the forty-seventh floor but any higher than that and you'll be stopped, okay?
BWOOOSH!!
Also, please be advised, standing behind me and staring at my hips, regardless of age, constitutes as sexual harassment,
DING! We're here!
YOU GUYS...!!
Busted.

Ooooooink Hoink Hoink!!
T...That laugh...
Ness seems pretty shaken up... Maybe I was too hard on him...
I-Impossible... It can't be...
Why him???
Oooo la la, how disgusting, I didn't realize this building had a rat problem.
Maybe I should call an exterminator! Bwa ha ha!!
My deepest apologies, King Park I mean, Pokey
I'm not sure what they're doing here but they'll soon "disappear" for interrupting your pigliness' rest!
KING?! King, he says!! I rather like that! King P!!
Bwa ha ha!! But no matter peon! You'll do no such thing, let the riff-raff in!
Hmmm.. Ahhh...
Er... What was it again...
Pig's Butt? No, no... Nuss! Nuss right? No, wait, it's Ness!
TAP TAP
Clueless as always old friend. While you were running around I've been moving up in the world!
You call me "Pokey", but that is no longer my name
Things have changed. Ness. A lot! I am now, MASTER Pokey! Get it?
Pokey?! What in the world are you doing here?!
Is this your room??
Ness...there's a huge difference between you and I! You're just a loser with no hope of success!
But Ness...before we go any further there's something you must understand.

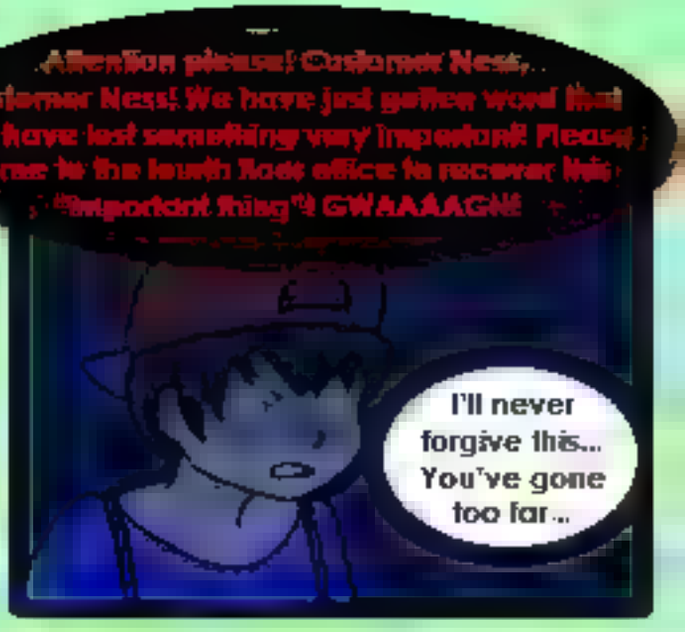
Ness, do you know this kid? He's somehow even more obnoxious than Tony!
Unfortunately, I do... He's my neighbor, but I have no idea what he's doing here...
He seems... familiar. Have we met before?
Y-You— I'll have you know, fire is STRICTLY prohibited inside this building!!
How like you, though, Ness! This is your answer to that stupid insect's cry for help?? This is the best you could do??
A glasses-wearing nerd..
He may be right, but it still makes me mad.
And the most plain girl I've ever seen!!
I... I'm plain?!
You were better off with that dumb mutt of yours!!
WAHHAHAHA!!
Hey, you guys!! You had better watch out! Ness has a bad track record with keeping his companions alive!
You'll end up just like that dumb bee. uhh. Bum Bum!!
WAHAHAHAHA!
Paula, what's a "Bum Bum"?
I'm not sure.. Ness never fully explained it...
That's right, Ness! That's right!
His name was Buzz Buzz!! And YOUR family were the ones who killed him!
The weak die.
My family is weak, and yet they managed to kill your partner.
He deserved to die like the insect he was! And you are also to blame for being so weak as to need an insect for a master, as fitting as it may be!
Ness, do you understand now? The world is run by the one who holds the most power! My partner has given me the power befitting a king.
Like you and your pathetic insect, we are the perfect match!
Even someone as powerful as Monotoli bows to me now! And soon, you will do the very same...


MASTER Pokey!
MASTER POKEY, NESS!!
YOU BIG DUMB LOSER!!
Shut up and stop calling Ness names!! HE'S not a loser, YOU are!!
Urk...
Awww looks like Ness' extremely plain girlfriend has to fight his battles for him!
How am I not surprised?
Hey extremely plain girlfriend! I bet you don't even care about the world, you just want Ness to give you a BIIIIG smooch!
Y YOU
Bleeegh! Looks like you'll be waiting a long time sister! Nobody'd want to kiss a face like that!
WOOOOOSH!
GRRR!!!
GAH!! What did you just hit me with?!
DIVINE RETRIBUTION!!
SMACK!
Yeah...
BIOLOGICAL WARFARE?! THEY POISONED ME!!
PFFFT, GAH, ACK, BAAAH!! I SWALLOWED SOME OF THE STING LINES!!
PEONS, THROW THEM OUT IMMEDIATELY!!! AND GET ME MEDICAL ATTENTION BEFORE I DIE!!
Hey, look! While they were escorting us back into the hall, one of the guards slipped me twenty dollars!
Neat!!

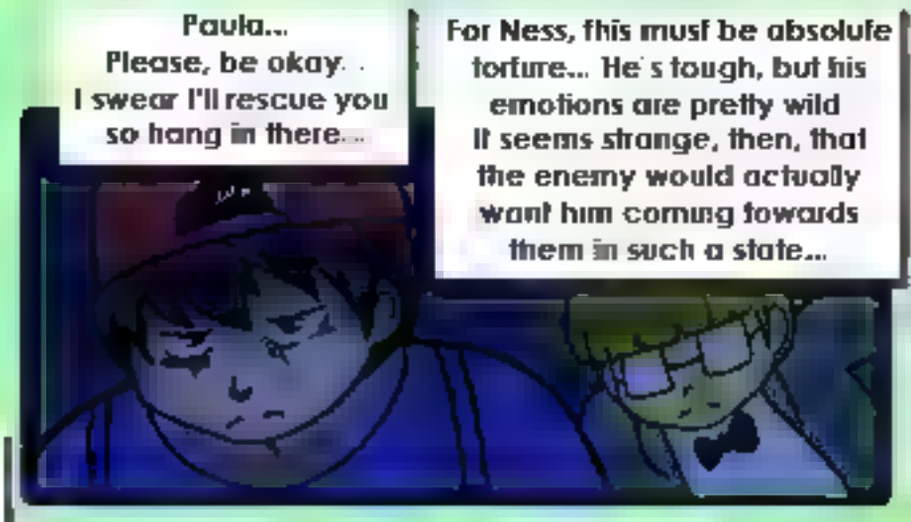

Money!! The rich scent of... Oh? Well, if it isn't Ness! Have you come to see Master Pokey, boy?
If it weren't for Picky, I'd swear your whole family was pure evil...
Pick...Picky? No, it's Master Pokey! Look at how much money I've made thanks to him!! Maybe he can even get me that statue of Monotoli's...
I... really want it...
But with Pokey making me so much money, I have no reason to beat him anymore!
The bag of money is telling me... Oh! There was another child, wasn't there? Guess I'll just beat him!
Hey Ness... There's still one more sock.
It's a shame my mom and dad aren't here, I'm sure they'd enjoy this.
AAIIEEEE!!!!
STINK
IIIINEEEES!!!
Hmph. sounds like they're finally on their way out. I have a feeling they're not going to make it far however.
Those precious bonds of yours, Ness... Let's see just how well you can protect them
...AND STAY OUT!!
You kids are stinking up this building, we have a serious stink line issue on our hands now!
Your building smelled funny before we even got here!!
This building stinks, that's for sure But it looks like we can't progress for the time being...
In that case, let's go shopping! We need new equipment, and I want to buy Paula the biggest teddy bear I can find!!
Ness, you're the greatest!!
Department store here we come!!

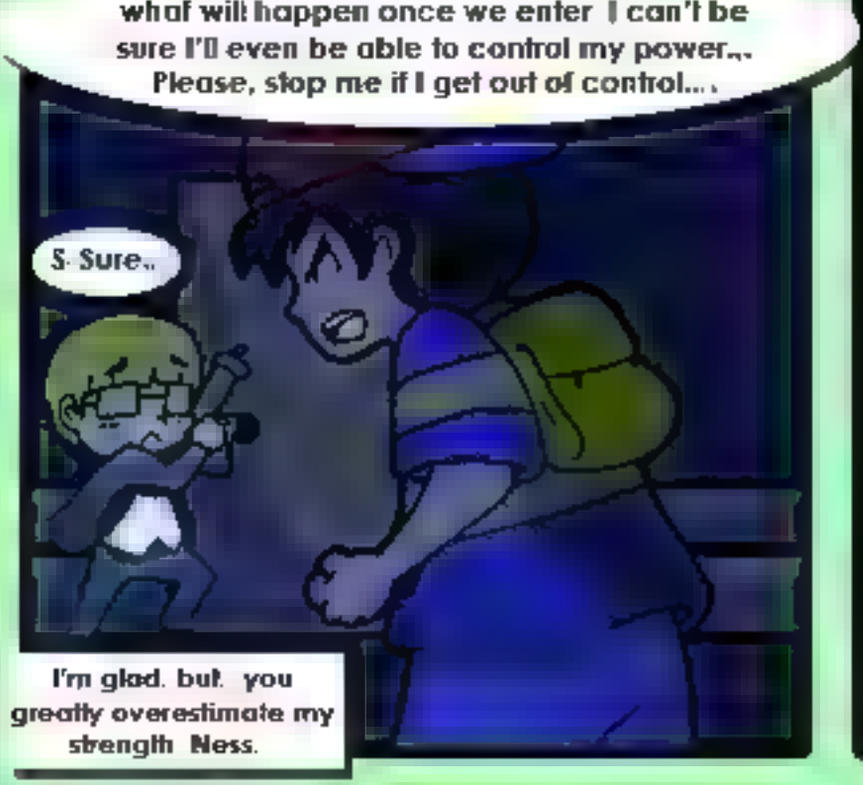

Unaware of just how far our enemy's influence had spread, we took some time off to rest and enjoy what Fourside had to offer
Oh boy!! Ness, I'll take this one!!
Better give dad another call soon...
No way! You beat Paper Man Two?!
Open wide!
Yeah! It was really tough!
Having a chance to act like normal kids had become something we sacrificed, so it was a nice change of pace to laugh and have fun, if only for a few moments.
A time for us to play and to strengthen our bonds as friends...
Okay, Jeff! Watch out, I'm the Street Fobbies champion in Twoson, you know!
I've never played before, so go easy on me Paula! Heh heh...
Geez!! Jeff you liar!! I never even hit you once!!
...was worth more than anything else in the world.
I give, I give!! Just call off the bear!!
But what none of us could ever predict was that it would also become a time of parting...
The girl? Yes... I understand.
Gweeeagh! Worry not, Master!
There is no human that can keep up with me. I'll use her as bait to lure
Gwee ee ee
that "partner" of yours may be a disgusting human, but boy is he evil!
Gweeeagh!! I'll be taking this!
PAULA!!!
NESS!! Help!!
In that moment, time stood still...
Paula, hang on!! I've got you!!
And then, as it began to move once again...
...She was gone. In an instant, Paula Polestar vanished into thin air. And there was...nothing I could do.
Paula.

What's going on?!
The lights suddenly went out, and...
Paula! Where's Paula?!
Paula...
I...


Attention please! Customer Ness,..
Customer Ness! We have just gotten word that you have lost something very important! Please come to the fourth floor office to recover this "important thing"! GWAAAAGH!
I'll never forgive this... You've gone too far...

The fourth floor office... We have to go, no matter what.
Ness... Even knowing it's a trap, you're willing to go for Paula's sake..


Paula... Please, be okay.. I swear I'll rescue you so hang in there...
For Ness, this must be absolute torture... He's tough, but his emotions are pretty wild It seems strange, then, that the enemy would actually want him coming towards them in such a state...

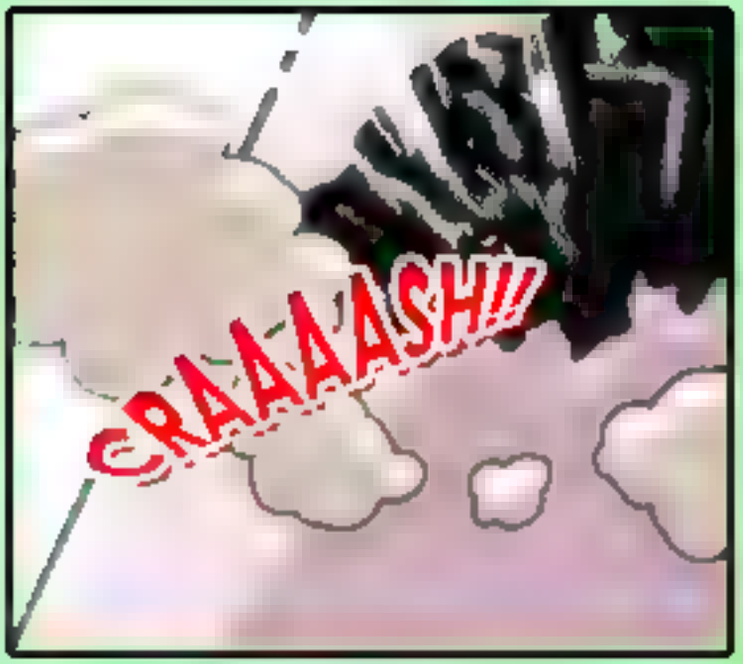

Jeff, I'm sorry, but .. I don't know what will happen once we enter I can't be sure I'll even be able to control my power... Please, stop me if I get out of control...
S-Sure..
I'm glad, but you greatly overestimate my strength Ness.

Costumer Ness! Attention, customer Ness!
GWAAAAGH!!!
Due to your inability to act, Paula has been placed in the care of another department!
I regret to inform you that there is a grave penalty for not recovering lost merchandise.
Please enter the office and hand over at once!

Hurgh!! What is this door made of?! It won't budge in the least!
WHAM!!
Customer Ness, Attention, customer Ness! Please leave all of your obnoxious sidekicks by the door before entering!
So you hear me, glasses?! You're not important in the least! Until our dear customer Ness enters the room alone, I'm afraid you'll just have to stay out there while I safely remain in this comfortable office!
Feel free to continue your futile efforts while I laugh at you, though! Gwaaaaargh!
Ugh, annoying lights... I thought I shut these pesky things down already
Where's the source of this disgusting glow coming from, then?
No good... Even worse, I took my eyes off of Ness for a few minutes and he's already going wild.
I guess we can use this to our advantage, but... I seriously fear for our safety if he completely loses it
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
S, Sorry, Jeff...
I know you want to fight, too...
I'm sure that this is all some sort of trap to get rid of me, and that it's stupid to go in alone, but...
But... I... I can't... stand here any longer...
N...Not while Paula... While Paula
P, Please just stay out of the way for now
...Oh.
SMAAAASH!!
Suddenly, I don't find this very funny anymore.

I guess it's about time I get serious, otherwise Master Giygas won't be very happy!
You have no idea what's in store for you, kid. I would get used to losing people, because this is only the beginning.
Gwaaargh! Forget about Paula, she's long gone by now! You should worry more about the people left like your family, for example!
I'm giving you one chance... Just one chance to bring Paula back
Bring her back here and maybe you won't have to suffer too much.
Gwaaargh! Do you really think you're in any position to make demands? You can barely control your own power!
But if you wish, I'll take you to her
Once the life drains from your body, you can meet again in heaven. I'm sure she's waiting there for you by now.
N... No... She can't be.
SHE CAN'T BE!!! you're lying!!!
GWAAAGH!! ...My precious tentacles! YOU MONSTER!

...What's going on?!
FWOOSH!!
My body...
C...CAN I DODGE THEM!!
What kind of power is this?!
...they're coming back?!
Master Giyga!
help!!!
The pressure is even starting to crack the walls...
crack!
crack!
They just... keep bouncing back...
I have to escape...
He said if I took her, Nass' will to fight would be gone...
A-but...he's only getting stronger!!
W...What are you doing?!
GIVE HER BACK!!
GIVE PAULA BACK NOW
GWAAAAGGGHHHH!!!
WOOOSH!!!
...I don't... M-Monotoli! H-He...
GIVE HER BAAAAAACK!!!
Nass!!
WOOOOOOSH!!!
Yaaaaah!!!
CRASH!!!


CRAAAASH!!

P Paula,,, I'm sorry...
You blew another hole in the building?! Ness, we have to go, now!
The lights are back, the cops will be here any minute!

Hang in there, Ness, we're almost clear... Keep your face hidden, we don't want to draw any further attention. .
It's okay,,, I can walk,,,

Search the perimeter of the Monotoli building, officer! Make sure no debris damaged any of the walls!!
Sir yes, sir! What about the department store though??
The safety of Monotoli and his property comes first! Always remember that!

We can hide behind the department store for now I guess they're more focused on other things but we should still be careful,,,
They don't care at all about Paula! Nobody even cares that she was kidnapped!!

MONOTOLI
Monotoli's corrupted this entire city... And HE s probably just as responsible...
I won't let them get away with this!

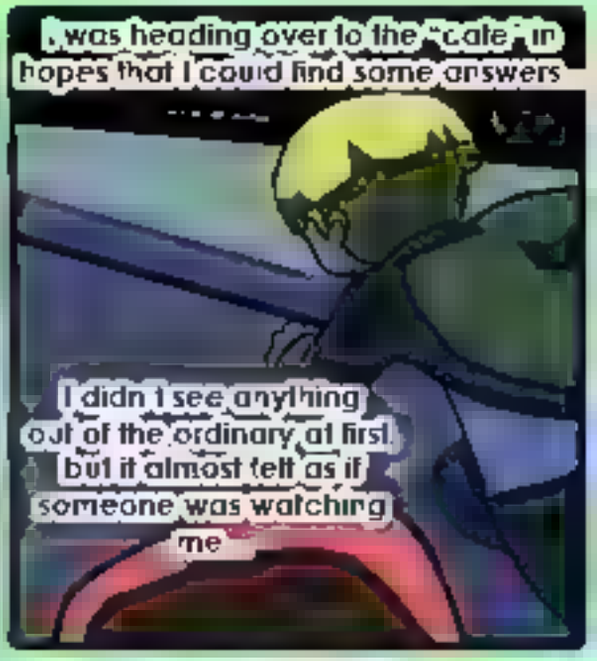
Let's go!! We're going to break into Monotoli's building and force him to tell us what happened to Paula! And if Pokey gets in my way, I'll...!!
That's enough, Ness. There's no way we can do that.
What do you mean?! We can stop him now, Jeff! How could you be calm when we have no idea where Paula went??
I'm mad, too, Ness! I am! But this isn't going to get us anywhere! How are we going to save Paula if we get thrown in jail? Are you going to blow them up, too?? They're human, Ness, not monsters!
I- I swore to Paula that I'd protect her... I'm the leader, but I let her get taken away!
She trusted me, but when she was in trouble I just stood there and watched as she vanished...
I,... I don't know what else to do...! This isn't fun anymore!! Paula could be dead!!
Ness, you're strong. Probably the strongest person I've ever met. But this time, brute force just isn't going to cut it.
We're up against something with unfathomable power. Something that will seriously stop at nothing to see us eliminated. I hate to say it, but, You can't just punch your way out of this situation
What a day! The department store is crazy, but the prices... wow!
I wonder what event will occur next time! Maybe something with fire!
Like a fire sale? That would be exciting! I can't wait to come back!!
The sun should be going down soon... Let's look around and see if we can find any info on Monotoli before night comes, Ness..
Yeah.

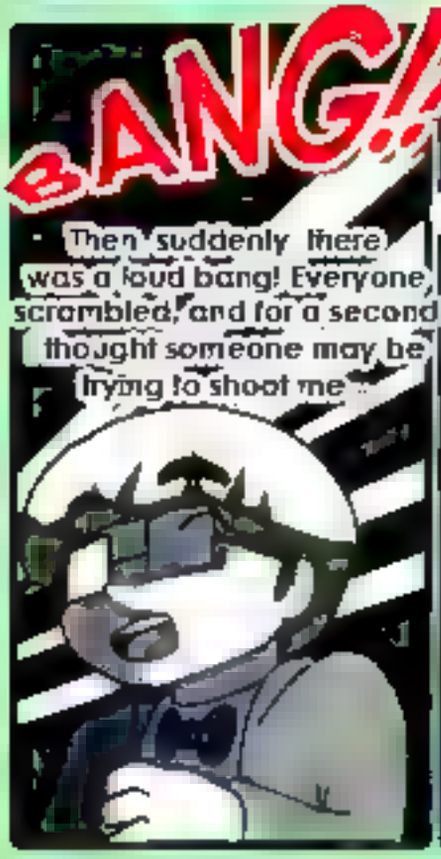
Night came much more quickly than I had anticipated
Leaving Ness at the hotel for now was a good way to save time but I'm still not coming up with anything
..Oh, honey, I had figured something like this would happen..
You sound so upset, I guess you must really be homesick...
A little yeah...
I wanted to see if you, Tracy, and King were okay .. Something happened, and...
Ness, say no more. Mothers understand these things.
You're a strong boy, but you're at that age where you have a lot of new emotions!
King, you've gotten faaaaat! Pudge, pudge pudge pudge, pudge!
squeeze
squeeze
D-Don't look at me! I'm hideous!!
Mom always knew you were a caring boy, I'm proud to have such a son! You'll always be mama's little man!
Mom, that's embarrassing.. But I'm glad you're all okay. I was just.. worried.
Aw Ness... the best thing to do in these situations is to let it all out.
Cry when you have to cry, and then laugh again when you're ready to laugh!
MOOOM!!! Is that Ness?? I wanna say hi!!!
Oh! Tracy, you have some words of encouragement for your big brother, too?
Ness guess What!!!
I LIKE PUPPIES!!!!!!!
Puh...Puppies?! The dreaded word!! She said it!!
Y, Yes, Ness, let's all remember the puppies and how important they are.
Uh. woof! Yeah. So, uh. I'm all puppy-like! No need for a new dog that'll eat all my food. really!
Wow, King! You're moving!!
Work towards a world where they can live safe and happy lives ..or something

Thank you, mom... I think I'll be okay for now...
Always remember Ness, your family loves you No matter how far you go, you'll always be in our hearts.
Hee hee! Ness!! I love you lots and lots!!
Rowf! I love steak! But Ness, you're even more lovable than steak, so come home and sneak me more table scraps soon, okay?

I have to hurry... Where was the hotel again?? There's not much time...
Huh Huh
STOMP

NESS!!
C'mon, we're going! I'll explain on the way, but we have to hurry now!
O-Okay, sure, lead the way, Jeff...


...was heading over to the "cafe" in hopes that I could find some answers
I didn't see anything out of the ordinary at first, but it almost felt as if someone was watching me

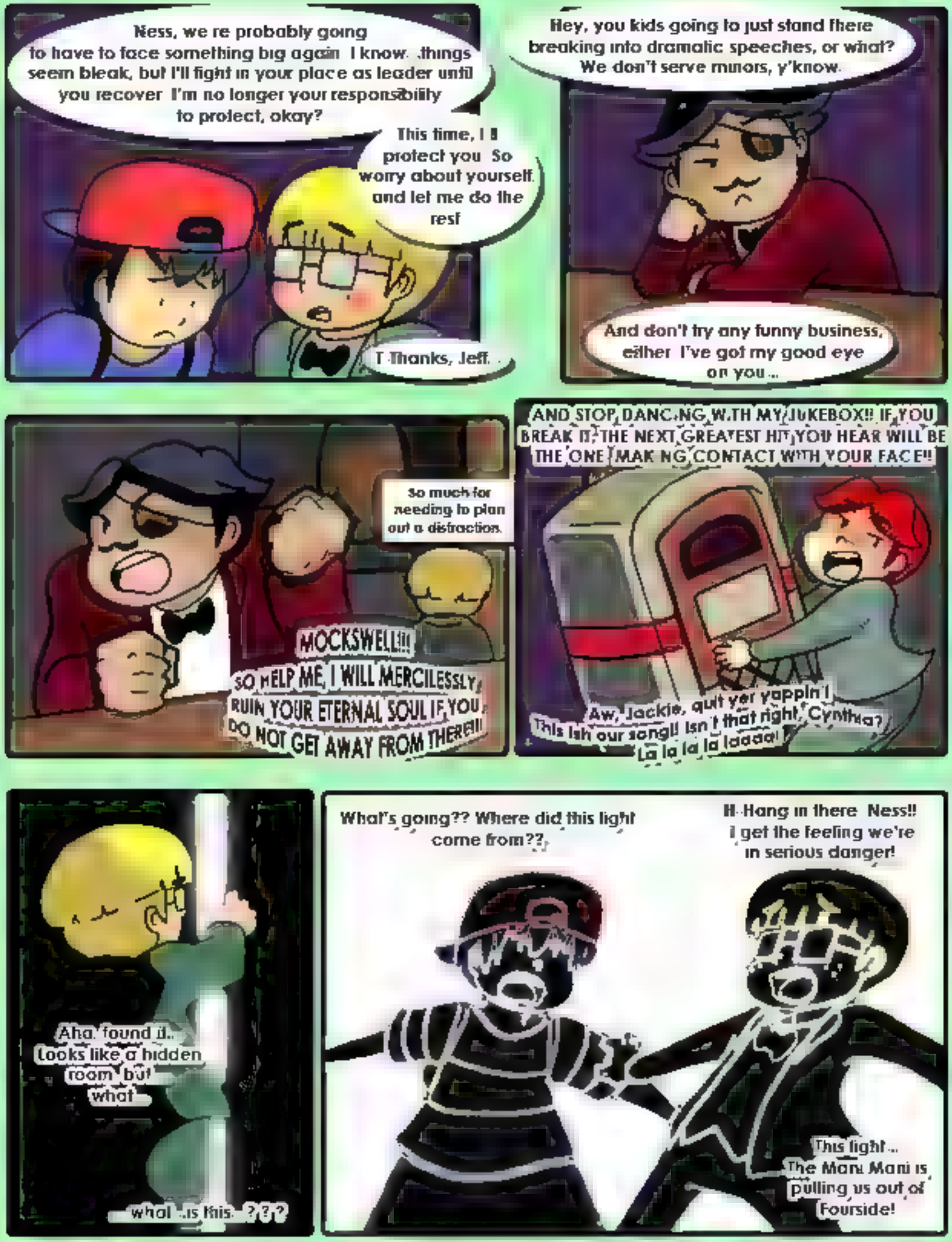

BANG!!
Then suddenly there was a loud bang! Everyone scrambled, and for a second I thought someone may be trying to shoot me...

However, I realized that a crowd was forming around the nearby alley. A man was there, and he kept mumbling your name... What do you make of it?
W...What's going on?? What is he doing here??
This man...

I know him!
His name is Evergreed!
Wheeze Wheeze
Wheeze Wheeze

Oh my! Is that boy really going to approach that dangerous man??
He's either brave or really stupid! A thugish looking guy like that definitely had to have been involved with Monotoli!
Still, maybe we should at least try to stop him...
No way, mom! Let's just watch!
Whoa, hold on there, pal! I got here first! If you want to go ahead, pay the toll!
Ooh! H-Hey!! You can't just shove me aside!!
You didn't give me anyth
FWOOMP!!
M-MY FACE!! I'VE BEEN BURGERED!!
Everdred... I can't believe it, you're really here...
T That voice.. N Ness, huh...?
This is,..good, I wanted to speak with you one last time,..
By now, you must be aware that something isn't right in this city..
I've always prided myself on my abilities as a thief... But this time,.. I got in way over my head...
...and almost lost it, to boot. That Monotoli... he's not at all what he seems... Carpainter was a pushover, but this guy is something else...
I stole something important from Carpainter after you trashed his cult... But Monotoli...he completely turned the tables on me!
A thief of my caliber, left to rot in the alley of a slum like this..
GASP GASP
But his secret... That old man let it slip.
You've seen it before, Ness, I'm sure of it... He called it "Mani Mani"...
...That eerie statue...the eyes would even glow red from time to time...
When I think back on those eyes... That statue is a monster, Ness... It's not right. As I carried it, I always felt something watching me...
That very statue... it's in this city now! And Monotoli... He's using it as the source of his evil power! That monstrous energy has consumed the most powerful man in Fourside!
Something horrible is going to happen, Ness, I can feel it... It's too late for me, but... You... You're the only one who can stop it!

This is all I can do to help now... My time has come
Go to Jackie's Cafe... and check behind the counter...
You'll understand everything once you do
Everdred,.. You shouldn't be moving... I'll get help!
Ness, you're a good kid... Much different than I was growing up... I'm going... to somewhere far, far away now... Somewhere you can't go
These are my final words to you... My last haiku poem.
When
Be sure
Then
It's my time now... Remember Ness, no matter what... you must never follow me
You can practically see the life drain from his body with each step...
He really wasn't that bad of a guy afterall... But I wonder if he's really going to die or not..
Evenin ladies.
AAAIEEEEE!!
G-G-GHOOOST BLOOD!!
I think... we should just go before this gets more complicated than it needs to be...
I guess as long as this place passes itself off as a cafe, we can come and go as we please... Still feels wrong, though...
Anyways, let's go, Ness.
This is... about what I expected, honestly...
Welcome to Jackie's place of questionable beverage.
Mono HIC loll...
Glurb... blurb...
Hay dere Cleff!
Get...hurk... yer pal Mockswell a nudder, "Coffee"! PBBBBTHHH!!! BAH HA HA HA HA!


Ness, we're probably going to have to face something big again. I know...things seem bleak, but I'll fight in your place as leader until you recover. I'm no longer your responsibility to protect, okay?
This time, I'll protect you. So worry about yourself, and let me do the rest.
T-Thanks, Jeff...
Hey, you kids going to just stand there breaking into dramatic speeches, or what? We don't serve minors, y'know.
And don't try any funny business, either. I've got my good eye on you...
So much for needing to plan out a distraction.
MOCKSWELL!!!
SO HELP ME, I WILL MERCILESSLY RUIN YOUR ETERNAL SOUL IF YOU DO NOT GET AWAY FROM THERE!!!
AND STOP DANCING WITH MY JUKEBOX!! IF YOU BREAK IT, THE NEXT GREATEST HIT YOU HEAR WILL BE THE ONE MAKING CONTACT WITH YOUR FACE!!
Aw, Jackie, quit yer yappin'! This ish our song!! Isn't that right, Cynthia? La la la la laaaa!
Aha, found it... Looks like a hidden room, but what...
What...is this...???
What's going?? Where did this light come from??
H-Hang in there, Ness!! I get the feeling we're in serious danger!
This light... The Mani Mani is pulling us out of Fourside!

WELL, HOW WONDERFUL... VISITORS, HUH? WE'RE ALWAYS WILLING TO SERVE MINORS HERE, SO PULL UP A CHAIR.
I GUESS YOU MUST BE CONFUSED, HUH? WELCOME TO MOONSIDE! IT'S A WONDERFUL PLACE.
OH, JACKIE, LOOK! THESE LITTLE FIRES ARE INFESTING OUR CAFE AGAIN. AREN'T THEY ADORABLE?
SOMETIMES THEY TURN INTO THINGS... WONDER WHAT THIS ONE WILL BECOME...
I think... We'll just be going
MANI MANI! YOU CAN FIND IT JUST OUTSIDE, BUT I'D BE CAREFUL, SON.
UNLIKE IN HERE, THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE ARE REAGAL WEIRDOS.
AND THE MOON... WELL... BEST NOT TO STARE INTO IT.
THE MOON'S LEAKING AGAIN...

MY EYES... MY EYES ARE LEAKING NOW. YOUR HEAD... YOUR HEAD IS LEAKING, TOO. IF YOU DON'T PLUG IT UP, YOU MAY LOSE IT...
...AAAHHH... YOU SEE, THERE IT GOES, MY EYE LEAKED OFF MY FACE AGAIN. I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND A NEW ONE!
3...
Compared to these guys,
into a monster...
2...
SHUUUM
Do you suppose the Mani Mani is trying to trap us here?
MANI MANI!! OH, YOU'RE NOT MANI MANI.
ARE YOU NEW HERE? LET ME BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME YOU... TO MOONSIDE.
HE... HE SINK! NO... NO WAY!!
JACKIE... WELCOMED... YOU JACK... IE... WEL... COME... WECOMEL TO SOONMIDE.
WEL COME
DEM OONS IDE
DONS DEMOON WELC O ME ME ME ME
SOMEHOW...

I'D RECOGNIZE THAT WEAK POSTURE ANYWHERE! LOID, YOU NERD, WALK LIKE A TRUE MAN! POINT YOUR CHEST TO THE HEAVENS!
OF COURSE YOU'RE A NERD, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LOID. SEE? YOU EVEN HAVE THIS NERDY HAIRCUT AND EVERYTHING.
IT'S THE HAIRCUT OF A WEAKLING, IT DOESN'T RISE UP TO CHALLENGE THE WORLD LIKE MINE!
N-Ness, let's get going.
NESS? THIS IS NINTEN! HEY, IT'S ME, TEDDY!
NOW HERE'S A MAN WITH REAL MIGHT! LOOK AT THAT KILLER EXPRESSION! IS ANA STILL SINGING, NINTEN? DOES SHE STILL HAVE THAT POWER??
I...HATE THAT SONG. YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE I HATE? STEAK. YOU LIKE STEAK, DON'T YOU, NINTEN? MAYBE I HATE YOU, TOO. YEAH... YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT ME BEHIND, AFTERALL.
I CAN STILL FIGHT!! LET ME JOIN YOU!! DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!! WHY JUST YOU THREE?? LOID, NINTEN, ANA!! I'M STRONG!! LET ME FIGHT, TOO!! COME BAAAACK!! LOOOOOOID!!! NINTEEEEEEEEEEEEEN!!!!!!

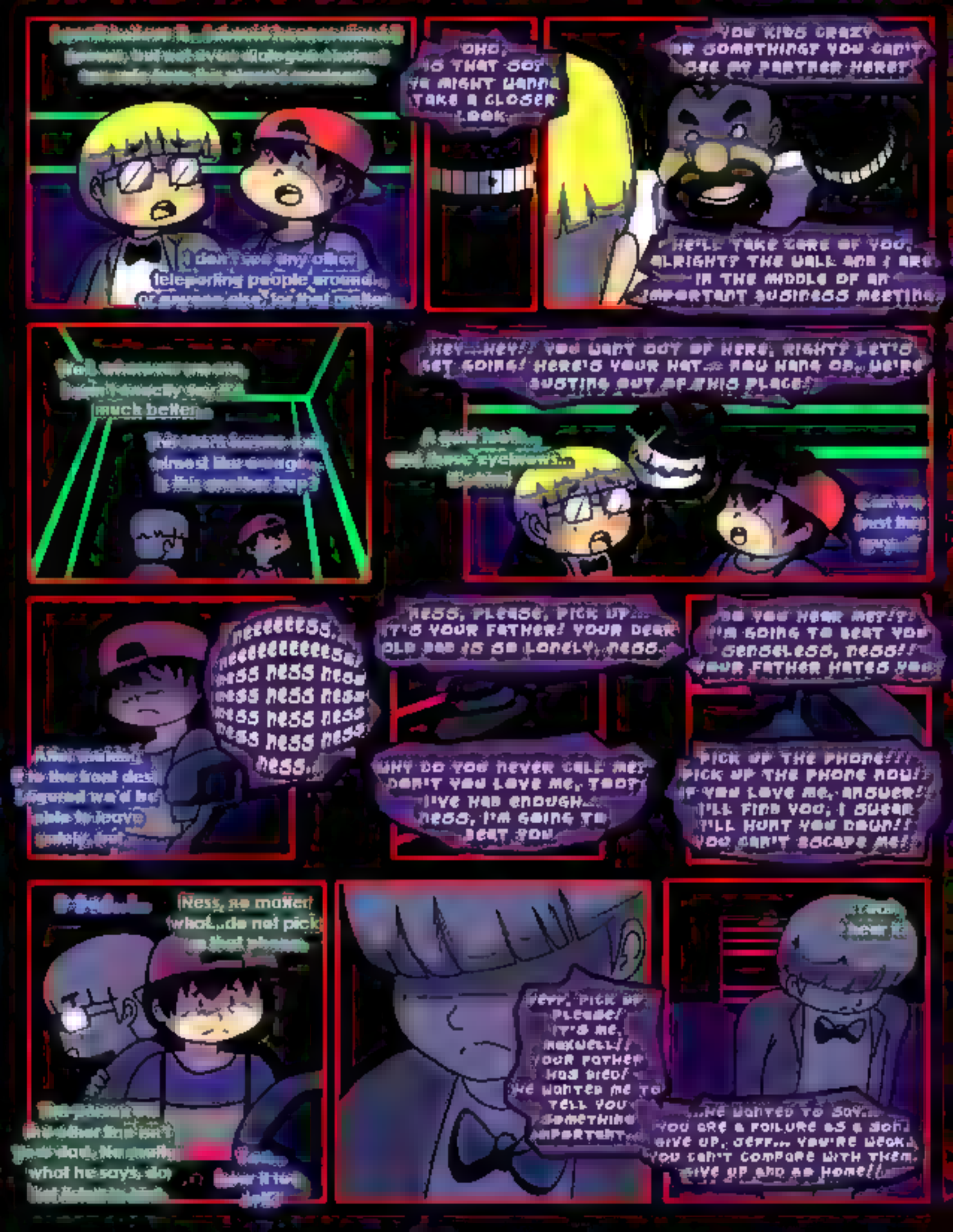
Whew, he didn't follow us...
I will send you first and then you second... to panel five!
You ask... too many questions!
Hello! and... good-bye!
I have a feeling
Let's get it over as we can...

YEAH, ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STOP YOU HERE, KID. HAVE SPECIAL ORDERS NOT TO LET ANYONE THROUGH.
ONLY SOMEONE WHO IS WITH A MAN WHOSE EYEBROWS ARE CONNECTED AND HAS A GOLD TOOTH CAN ADVANCE PAST THIS PANEL.
devious this place is...
DINOSAUR MUSEUM
Maybe we'll have better luck
BABOOM!!!!
E-EXCUSE ME.
O-DO YOU MIND IF I SHARPEN YOUR HEAD?
IT'LL FIT, YOU JUST HAVE TO TWIST IT A LITTLE.
LIKE THIS! HEE HEE HEE! WELC WELC OMEWELC OMEOME.
WALKING PARKING METERS!! FLOATING LETTERS!! THAT'S SO FUNNY, IT HURTS!!
IT HURTS... IT HURTS...
The museum... I really wanted to go here, but not like this.
THE SHOWER IS... MY SOHES! YOUR SOHES! SOHE'S SOHES. SOHE SOHE SOHE.

YEAH, ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STOP YOU HERE, KID. I HAVE SPECIAL ORDERS NOT TO LET ANYONE THROUGH.
ONLY SOMEONE WHO IS WITH A MAN WHOSE EYEBROWS ARE CONNECTED AND HAS A GOLD TOOTH CAN ADVANCE PAST THIS PANEL.
devious this place is...
I'm sorry, Jeff...
so don't worry, okay?
DINOSAUR MUSEUM
Maybe we'll have better luck
I'll take care
BABOOM!!!!
O-Okay...
E-excuse me...
O-DO YOU MIND IF I SHARPEN YOUR HEAD?
IT'LL FIT, YOU JUST HAVE TO TWIST IT A LITTLE.
LIKE THIS! HEE HEE HEE! WELC WELC OMEWELC OMEOME.
WALKING PARKING METERS!! FLOATING LETTERS!! THAT'S SO FUNNY, IT HURTS!
IT HURTS... IT HURTS...
The museum... I really wanted to go here, but not like this.
CAN YOU GUESS WHOSE BONES THESE ARE?
THE ANSWER IS... MY BONES! YOUR BONES! BONE'S BONES. BONE BONE BONE.

here...
OH NO!
You've got your guard down! Move fur...ot the hospital.
WhaAAaaAAaa
What... what kind of happened in this?
His phone feel like it weighed a...
Almost as if they knocked the Antidote out of M-My hands!
Hospital... Must have let the Monsters out by now!
Which one of you should I be talking to?
have no idea!...
The source has to be close by... this didn't start until we appeared here. Do you see anything over there, Nest? Seems the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Over here, Jeff! In that painting! They're hiding inside!
Ceci n'est pas un Nest.
Might even if we [illegible] the Monsters will [illegible] Let's take them down!
Beat you into them with the abstract paint, right?? H-how did they manage to get here??
They don't know!? The abstract art nobody understands this stuff!!
Oh no... He's returned to normal...
Don't worry, he's all the [illegible] over there!
Haha, you're right... Take that, ya stupid normal try to catch us now!!
AAAHHH!! What the heck!!
Homewrecker!!

we were pulled into this painting just as we arrived.
OH! OH!! HE'S COMING OUT!! WE'RE DONE FOR!!
SHHH, MAYBE HE WON'T SEE US!!
PLEASE SPARE US! LOOK, YOU CAN HAVE OUR HEADS!
I'LL GIVE YOU MY LIFE!! ER, NO... MY WIFE!!
What'll you name it?
HELLO! ...AND GOOD-BYE!
How many of these guys are there??
AAAaaaAAAaa
HELLO!... AND GOOD-BYE!
HEY, KIDS! LET'S JUST GET RIGHT TO THE MAIN EVENT, OKAY? EVERYONE OUT THERE, LET'S SAY IT TOGETHER! HELLO! ...AND GOODBYE!
AAAaaaAAAaa
AH, HELLO THERE, SIR. AND... I THINK I'M SAYING THIS RIGHT BUT... GOOD-BYE? SHALL I?
NO!
OKAY, THEN! LET'S DO IT!
AAAaaaAAAaa


I don't see any other teleporting people around...
OHO, IS THAT SO? YA MIGHT WANNA TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
YOU KIDS CRAZY OR SOMETHING? YOU CAN'T SEE MY PARTNER HERE?
HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, ALRIGHT? THE WALL AND I ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS MEETING.
much better.
HEY...HEY!! YOU WANT OUT OF HERE, RIGHT? LET'S GET GOING! HERE'S YOUR HAT... NOW HANG OD, WE'RE BUSTING OUT OF THIS PLACE!
NESS, PLEASE, PICK UP... IT'S YOUR FATHER! YOUR DEAR OLD DAD IS SO LONELY, NESS.
DO YOU HEAR ME?!? I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU SENSELESS, NESS!! YOUR FATHER HATES YOU.
WHY DO YOU NEVER CALL ME? DON'T YOU LOVE ME, TOO? I'VE HAD ENOUGH... NESS, I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU.
PICK UP THE PHONE!!! PICK UP THE PHONE NOW!! IF YOU LOVE ME, ANSWER!! I'LL FIND YOU, I SWEAR I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN!! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME!!
Ness, no matter what...do not pick
what he says, do
JEFF, PICK UP PLEASE! IT'S ME, MAXWELL!! YOUR FATHER HAS DIED! HE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
...HE WANTED TO SAY... YOU ARE A FAILURE AS A SON. GIVE UP, JEFF... YOU'RE WEAK. YOU CAN'T COMPARE WITH THEM. GIVE UP AND GO HOME!!

There's a little boy...
HEY JUNIOR, WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET! CHECK THIS GUY OUT!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
YOU...I'M STARING RIGHT AT YOU AND SENSE...YOU VISIT STARMED.NET
KNOW...
AM I RIGHT? OR I WRONG? OR I RIGHTWRONG?!
NESS'S HP DROPS TO 0!
JEFF'S HP DROPS TO 0!
C'MON, PAL. JUST DO IT. BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY!
Jeff
UHH HA HA HA! NOT SO FAST, FRIEND! HYUK HYUK! THIS PLACE IS SOMETHING ELSE, WON'T EVERYTIME YOU THINK YOU'RE SAFE, ANOTHER MESS COMES OUT OF NOWHERE! WHY IS THAT?!
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY SOMETHING WITH SUCH A STUPID FACE COULD BE MUCH OF A THREAT! THIS SHOULD BE ENTERTAINING!
SO WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? DON'T WORRY, I WON'T INTERFERE. JUST GO AHEAD AND SMASH IT TO BITS! YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT, RIGHT?

TICK-TOCK...
You can trust me, Jeff! I'll make this hit count!
We can do this, Ness! Our power will overcome anything!
CRACK!!
Jeff, you're REALLY old! What happened to your face??

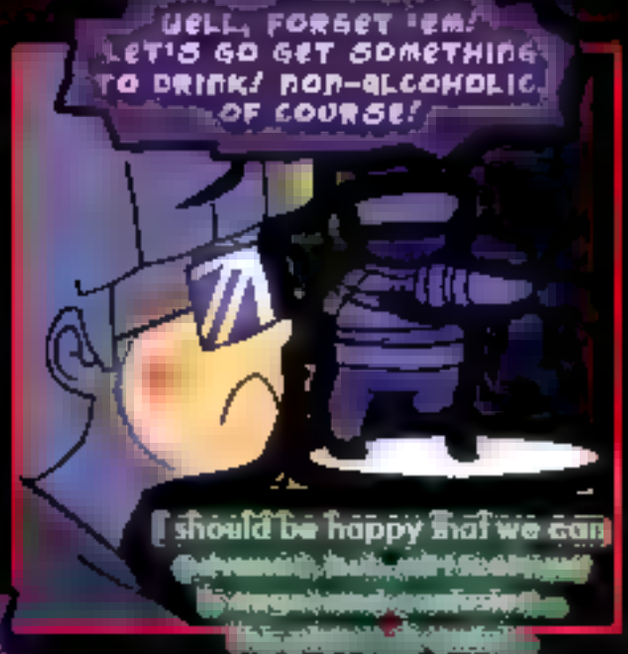
to give it my all.

TICK-TOCK.
give me your worst! Show me

D-Don't let the illusion

SHOOOOM!

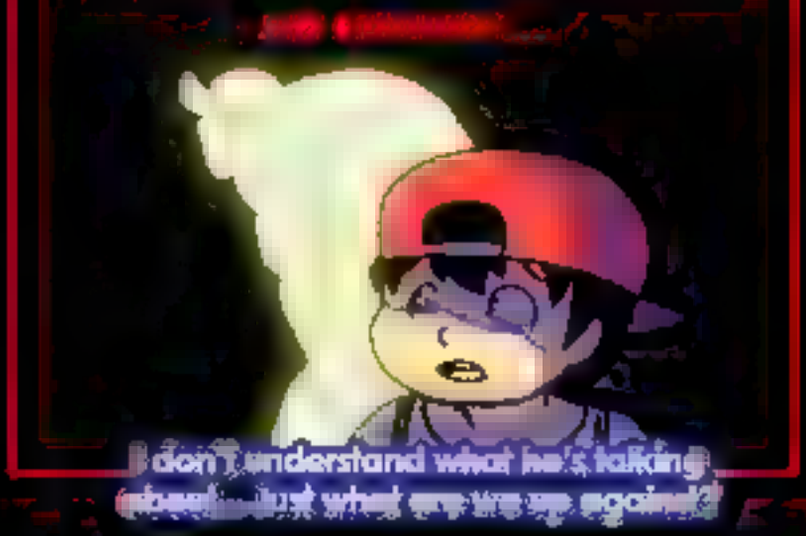
HEY, PAL! LONG TIME NO SEE! WHAT'S WITH THE KIDS? YOU SETTLE DOWN?
HAH! YEAH RIGHT!


WELL, FORGET 'EM! LET'S GO GET SOMETHING TO DRINK! NON-ALCOHOLIC, OF COURSE!
I should be happy that we can

N...no... no, I won't... I won't listen anymore, so please... please get out of my head!! T-this isn't what I wanted!!
Another person? Wait, could it be... are you Monotoli??
I'm not! I'm not!! Monotoli doesn't exist! H-he's... he's not here! Please don't torment me any longer!!
He vanished... I guess that was another illusion, but this... is this really it?
Mani statue, then we
GLARE
Is it actually a living being?
anything like this! It didn't move
N-NESS. YOU ARE NESS.
LONG, LONG TIME...
THIS WORLD WILL BE YOUR GRAVE.
CONSUMES ALL, YOU WILL BE ENGULFED BY THE DARKNESS THAT YOUR PEOPLE FEAR SO MUCH!!
I AM THE REASON YOU ARE HERE...
AND I AM ALSO THE REASON...
WHY YOU WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

I HAVE SEEN YOUR PAST, YOUR PRESENT, AND YOUR FUTURE. ALL THAT AWAITS YOU IS DEFEAT.
IN THE FUTURE, ALL IS DEVASTATION. WHY DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CHANGE WHAT IS INEVITABLE?
I HAVE BEEN WAITING. WAITING FROM A PLACE YOU CAN NEVER REACH. AND FROM THERE, I HAVE COME TO REALIZE HOW MUCH I DETEST YOU.
THE PEOPLE THAT INHABIT THIS PLACE DO NOT DESERVE THE GIFTS IT HAS TO OFFER.
Strange, for such a powerful foe, his attack is really easy to dodge.
IT IS MY INSTINCT TO HATE YOU. IT IS MY INSTINCT TO WANT TO SEE YOU CRUSHED.
Then it must also be your instinct to lose, because you're much too weak to beat us!
BOOOOOM!!
I SEE I HAVE MADE A MISTAKE IN NOT REMOVING YOU AS WELL.
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO INTERFERE ANY LONGER.
THIS PRIMITIVE FORM HAS WATCHED YOUR UGLY PEOPLE GROW. BUT WHAT HAS CHANGED NESS? IT IS FUTILE. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONES FIGHTING THIS MEANINGLESS BATTLE.
CRACK!!
I won't let you hurt Jeff... Don't think I'll give in that easily!

THE TIME HAS COME TO ESCAPE THIS BODY.... THERE IS NO MORE PURPOSE BEHIND MY BEING HERE. WHEN A PRIMITIVE BEING WRENCHES ITS PEARL, IT MUST EMBED ONE



AS I BEGIN TO WALK UPRIGHT, I FIND A COMMON GROUND WITH HUMANS. AND YET, I STILL HATE THEM... BEING DEFEATED SO EASILY...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE PAIN

ALTHOUGH MY BODY HAS ONLY CHANGED SLIGHTLY, I AM BORN ANEW. I FORM THOUGHTS AND BECOME MORE THAN A PRIMITIVE BEING. I HAVE A MIND AND A HEART. I THINK... I FEEL...

FROM THE PAST, LIFE THAN I EVER KNEW. WE GREW TOGETHER THIS WORLD AND I...

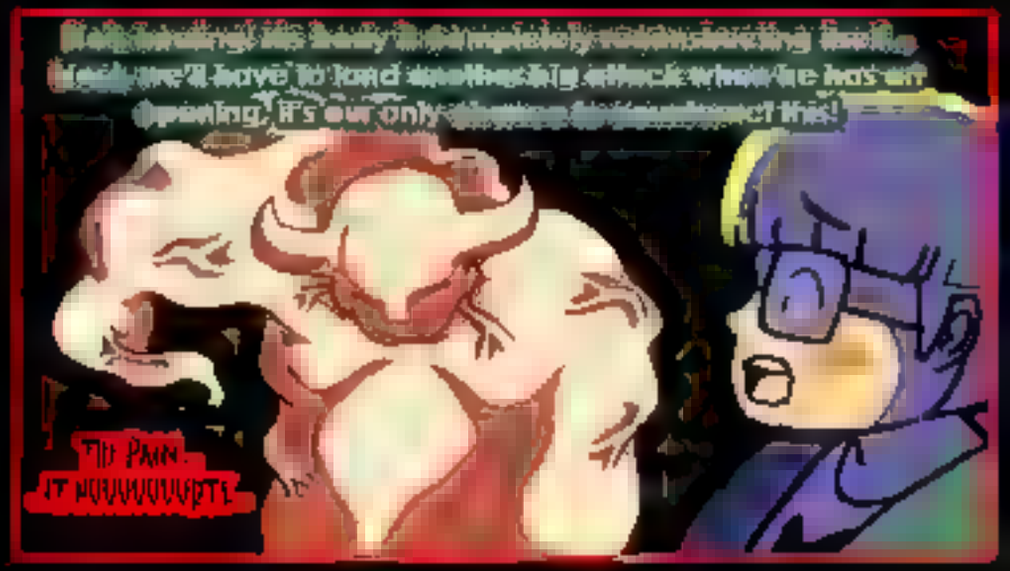
AND NOW I HATE... IT IS ALL I HAVE LEFT... I WANT SO BADLY TO TAKE FROM YOU WHAT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME. BUT I AM NOT STRONG.

HOWEVER... THERE IS HOPE. THE MANI MANI WILL BE MY CONNECTION. I WILL PASS THROUGH TIME AND GAIN THE POWER I NEED.

ME POWER..... NOW I AM STRONG. THE VERY BEINGS I HAVE GROWN TO HATE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE HELPED ME BECOME

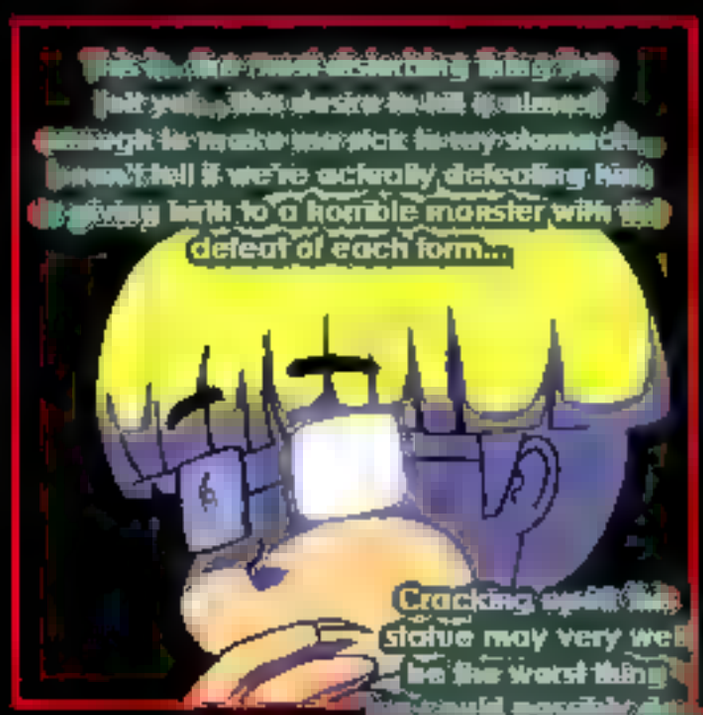
BUT THIS TIME, I WILL NOT OFFER YOU SALVATION...
IF I AM TO STOP YOU...
...THEN I SHALL CRUSH BOTH YOUR MIND AND BODY!
of his thoughts?
WHOA!
THRUST
I WANT... TO CRUSH YOU. AFTER COMING TO "THE PLACE"... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY CHANCE...
I MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR BATTLE BEFORE... BUT MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I'VE LAST SEEN YOU...
THE BOY WITH THE RED CAP... YES, YOU ARE HIM... I WILL CRUSH THAT BOY!
SWOOSH
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO RUINED EVERYTHING...
WITH THIS SWORD I WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE, NESS...!
of a broken mind...

NO, BEFORE NESS...
THERE IS ANOTHER...
THE ONE I SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE.
THE WEAKLING...
YOU ARE THE WEAKEST ONE.
DO NOT RESIST, AND LET YOUR END
BE SWIFT.
Time to at least use
his alpha level
PSI.
this off...
I HAVE GONE WITNESS TO
POWER MUCH STRONGER
THAN THIS.
YOU CANNOT
HOPE TO OVERCOME ME.
NOW I AM MORE THAN
CAPABLE OF DEFLECTING
YOUR ATTACK. THIS IS
MUCH TOO WEAK.
That's it! You're mine!
Ness again!
FATALE. IT IS FATALE.
SHOOOOM!
YOUR FEEBLE WEAPONS ARE NO
MATCH FOR MY BODY.
KILL YOU!
I WILL KILL YOU!
DIE WHILE REGRETTING
YOUR USELESSNESS.
a little stronger than he
seems. Ness, I know
you'll come through...
I'm sure of it...
THIS FEELING...
IS IT PAIN? I...
REMEMBER...
BWOOOOSH!!
YES. YOU ARE THE ONE...
THE ONE WHO HAS CAUSED ME PAIN...


THE PAIN... IT HURRRRRTS!

I CANNOT BE DESTROYED
NESS!!
I WILL KILL YOU!!
I CANNOT DIE! I WILL NEVER DIE!!!

DO NOT RESIST YOU... YOU MUST DIE...
HATE YOU!!
NESS!!!
NESS!!!
DESTROY YOU!!
I WANT REVENGE!!!
KILL NESS!!!
KILL!! KILL!!!


defeat of each form...
Cracking open this statue may very well be the worst thing

nothing is going to change!
I'll still press on!
STOP MOVING!
I WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE!

NESS! DO NOT DO IT!
DO NOT DO IT!

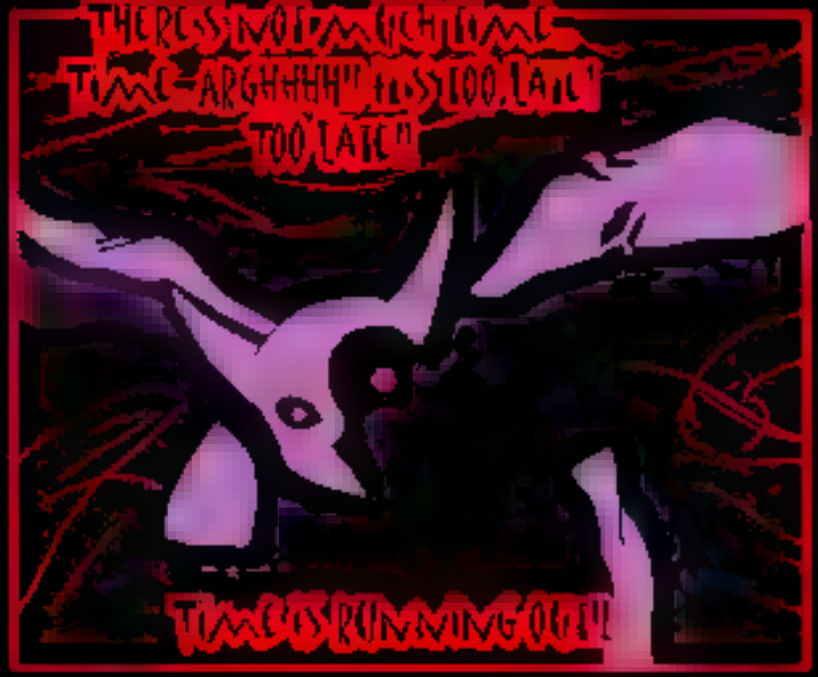
CRACK
NESS... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...

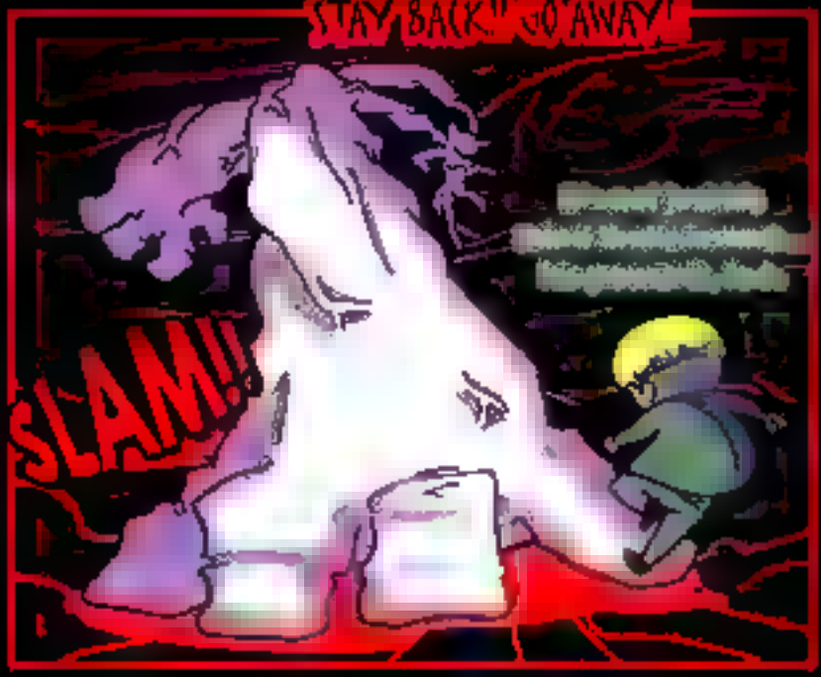
WHY... NESS... WHY DID YOU DO IT...
MY PAGE... IS GONE...
BUT NOW... NOW...
...WHAT DO I HAVE LEFT...

BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
NESS... NESS... NESS...

I TRIED TO WARN YOU...
BUT IT IS TOO LATE NOW...
I CAN NEVER RETURN!
NESS!!! YOU HAVE TAKEN IT FROM ME!!!

YOU CAN COME OUT NOW...
ARE YOU AFRAID?
TAKE YOUR TIME...
THIS SHELL HAS HELD ME LONG ENOUGH... I WANT TO BE FREE...
HELP...
HELP ME...
HELP ME BREAK FREE...
THANK YOU, NESS...
I CAN SEE NOW... I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY...
AHHH... ONCE I'M OUT, I CAN FIND MARIA AGAIN...
MAAAAARIAAAAAAAAA....
MOM... I'M COMING HOME...
I JUST HAVE ONE LAST THING TO DO
I WANT TO SEE HIM... I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN... MINE... I MISS YOU...
SO DIE! FALL TO THE GROUND AND BUFF!!


THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME
TIME-ARGHHHH" IT'S TOO LATE
TOO LATE"
TIME IS RUNNING OUT!


STAY BACK!! GO AWAY!
SLAM!!

new size
't take him as lightly as

CRUNCH

NOOOO- YOU CANNOT GO YET
I WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE
STAY- STAAAAAAAAAY

THERE'S NO ESCAPE STAY FOREVER
NEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESS
NESS
NESS?
THAT NAME
AHHHHH NESS, NESS NESS NESS NESS
NESS NESS, NESS, NESS NESS NESS NESS
NESS! I WANT TO LIVE
NESS
NESS

AGGH!
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
GRRR
NESS
IT HURTS
IT HURTS
H.E.L.P.
MMMM
NESS!!!
INFERIOR PEASANTS!!!
I...LOVE...YOU...
CRYING...
MARIA...
GO BACK...
GO BACK!
HA HA HA HA HA
NINTEN...
SOLDIER

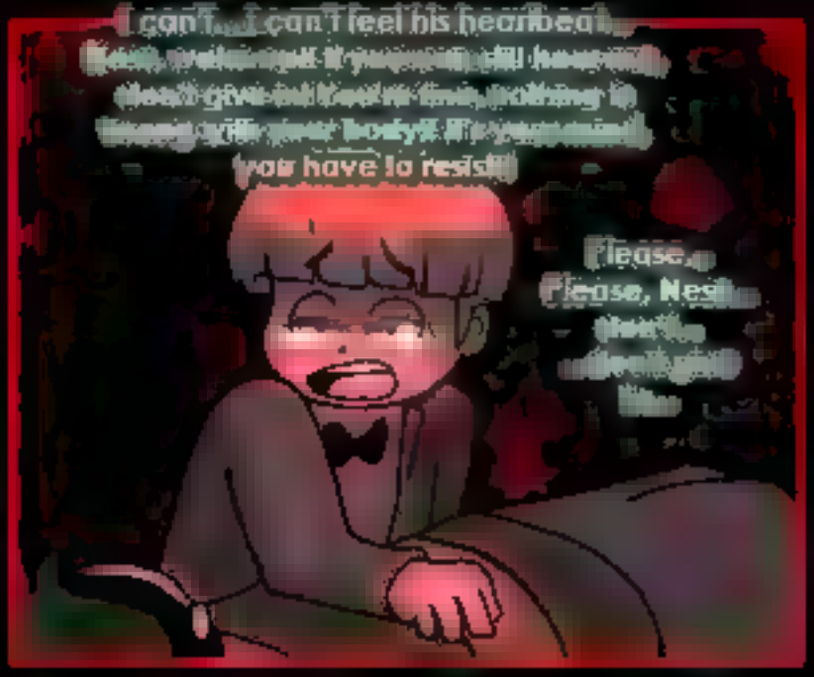
WHY
THOSE EYES
DON'T LOOK
DON'T LOOOOOK
LOVE
FAMILY
NOOOO
HISSIGLY
MY HEART
YOUR HEART
MISS

I WANT TO SEE YOU
I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN
MY HEART
SHE WANTS TO SEE YOU!!

I MISS YOU
NEED
HELP
LET GO
LET GO
SHE MISSES YOU!!

NO ESCAPE
NO ESCAPE
to Ness?? He's suffered
I'M SCARED...
SOOOOO SCAAAAAAREEEEEED
Please, body...
DON'T COME NEAR!
NESS...
NEEEESS...
YOUR HEART...
GASP
NESS NESS NESS NESS NESS
I'M SAD
DON'T DIE
I'M SORRY
FEELINGS
STOP STOP
NO MORE
• Ness got hurt and collapsed...
NESS...
IT'S NOT RIGHT.. NOT RIGHT

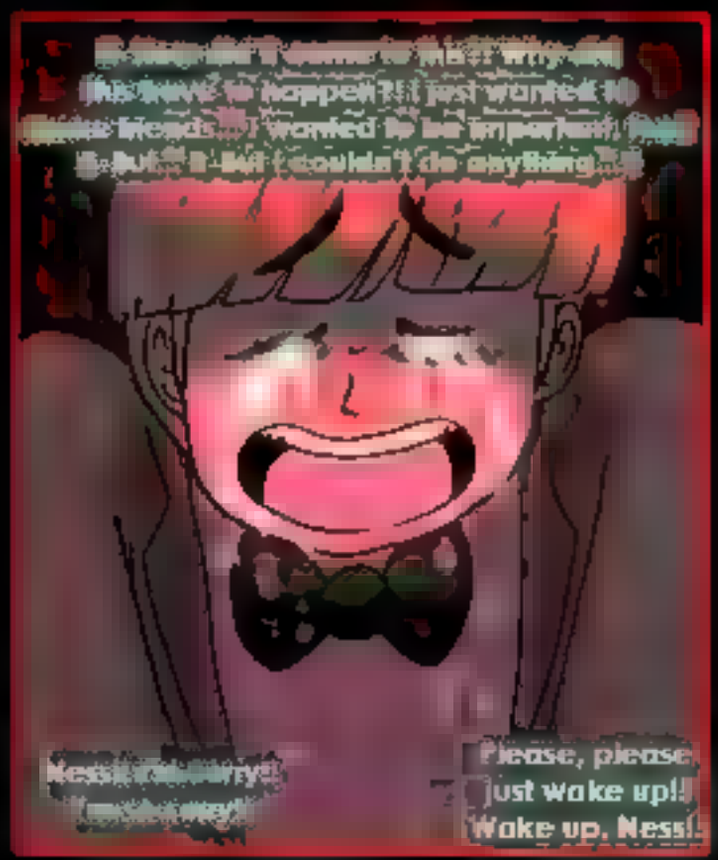
happened to make
him collapse.
But if I don't hurry


I can't... I can't feel his heartbeat...
you have to resist!
Please,
Please, Ness

He isn't moving anymor

You and Paula counted on me,

Teany, teany tied.


Please, please
just wake up!!
Wake up, Ness!

Without you and Paula,
I don't know what to do
anymore...

-Ness!
-It looks like you got your head handed to you.

I...I want to live...

No...
I have to get up...
I have...to get up!!

S-Someone...
is there...?

-So, how about giving it another shot?

This song...
It's surging through my body...

When I close my eyes, I can see...

...I can see...
...What is this?

What...
are you trying to tell me...?

simple as can beeee...
Raise your voices
all day long now;
Sing a melody of loooove...
oh, looove!

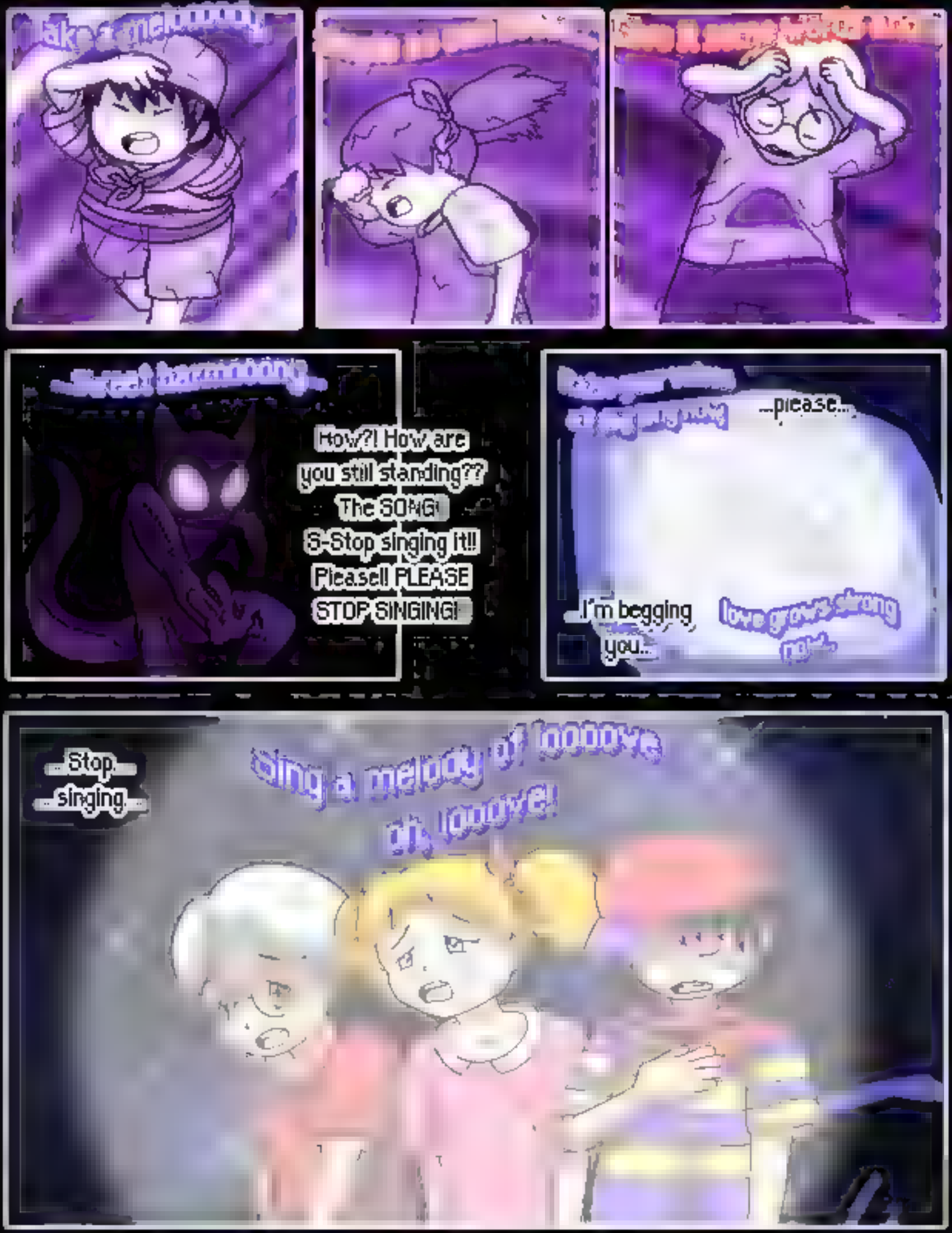
Ninten! Even if you are a descendant of George and Maria, it matters not!
Stop singing that song!! Go home and await your demise!!

The ugly Earth people cannot hope to stop me!! Your meager powers...I will crush you and your friends like insects!! Ninten! Know that I am to be your executioner!
DO NOT RESIST!! STOP SINGING AT ONCE!!!

For Maria's sake I may have spared you, Ninten... but now...

Your persistence in singing that song has sealed your fate to perish here and now!!

ARE YOU LISTENING?! IT IS MEANINGLESS, SO STOP IMMEDIATELY! YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE!! STOP AT ONCE!!
YOU PUNY INSECTS! I AM TELLING YOU TO STOP!!


Take a memory
How?! How are you still standing??
The SONG!
S-Stop singing it!!
Please!! PLEASE STOP SINGING!
...please...
...I'm begging you...
love grows strong
Stop singing
Sing a melody of loooove
Oh, loooove!

Stop it.
memories...
I want to forget!!
I don't want them anymore.
The days we spent together...
You and I... We were.
...family...
I was happy.
...so happy...
...to have a mother like you...
Though you were forced to care for me in an artificial place that merely resembled your home...
...your smile never wavered.
You laughed. You cared. With those eyes, you looked at me as if I were your child.
But even though you loved me,
the melody you sang...would always make me cry.
Such a bittersweet melody... Maria...
Was your heart crying, just as mine is now?
t hurts...
and yet,
I feel happy...
Ninten.
Because of you
You must stop singing!!
YOU MUST STOP!!

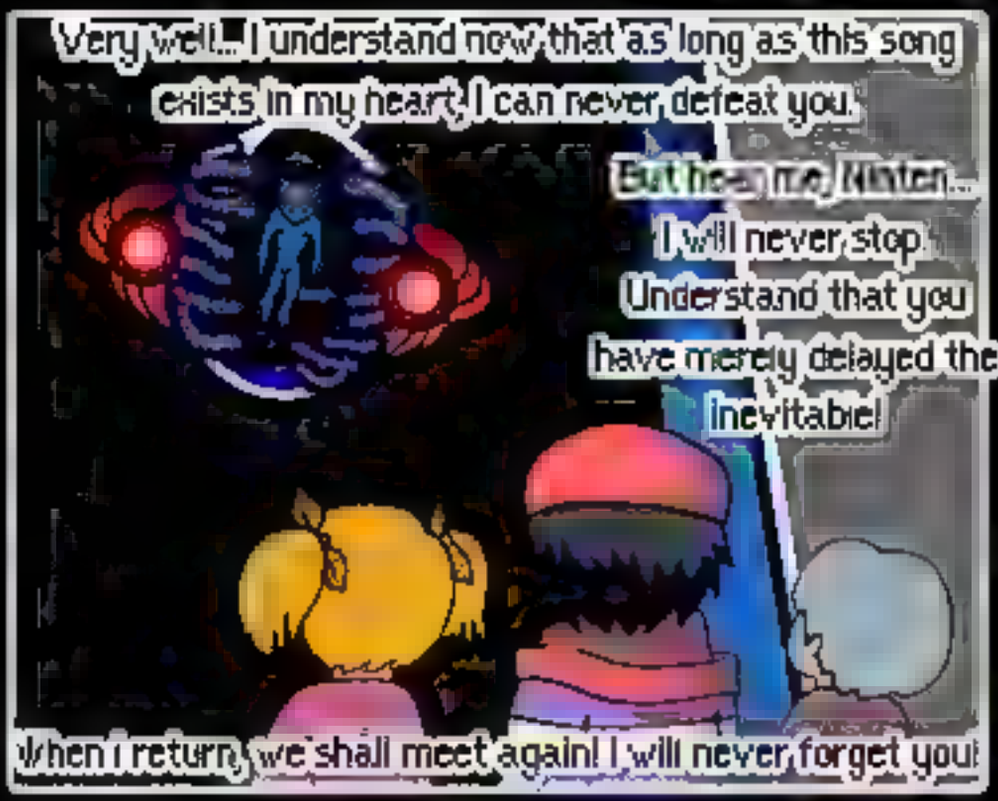
Stop
I...I cannot
stop it...
The tears
won't stop...
Your voice.
I hear it.

Even if I had not truly made you happy...

Even if you had not truly loved me...

The days we spent together will always remain in my heart

I will love you always. Mother.


Very well... I understand now that as long as this song exists in my heart, I can never defeat you.
But hear me, Ninten...
I will never stop.
Understand that you have merely delayed the inevitable!
When I return, we shall meet again! I will never forget you!

Ninten! That cursed name will never leave my heart!
When the people of this planet perish at my hands, I will ensure you are the first to go!!

Ninten... ...Ninten
I will never forget...

But why are you here? You won, right...?
I was... in a tunnel beneath a man's house, close to where my journey began.
Is there still a chance to escape??
When this place disappears, there will be only Giggas. Before that happens, I will give you that chance.

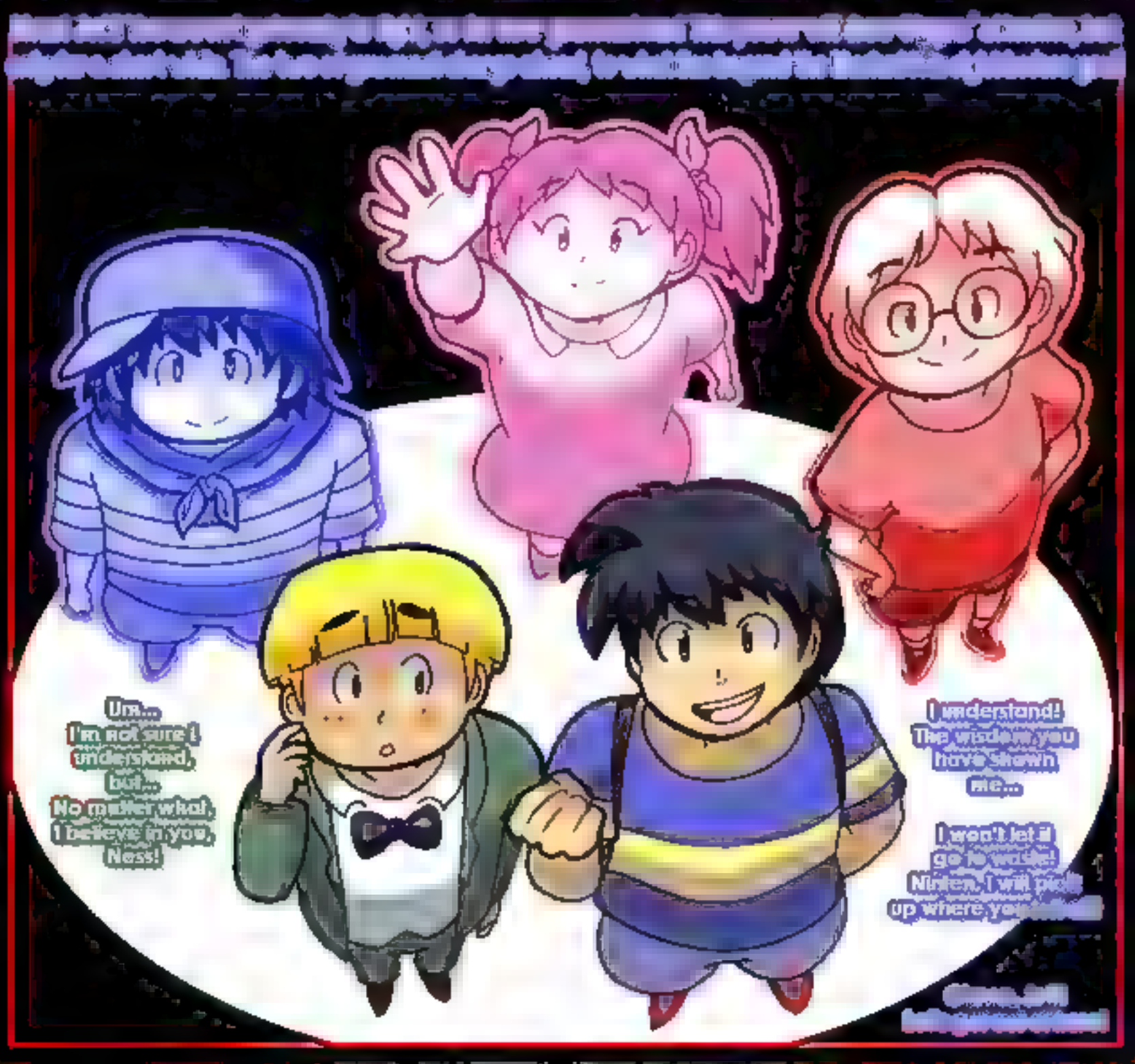
...would never...
Ness...
Ness...
Ness...

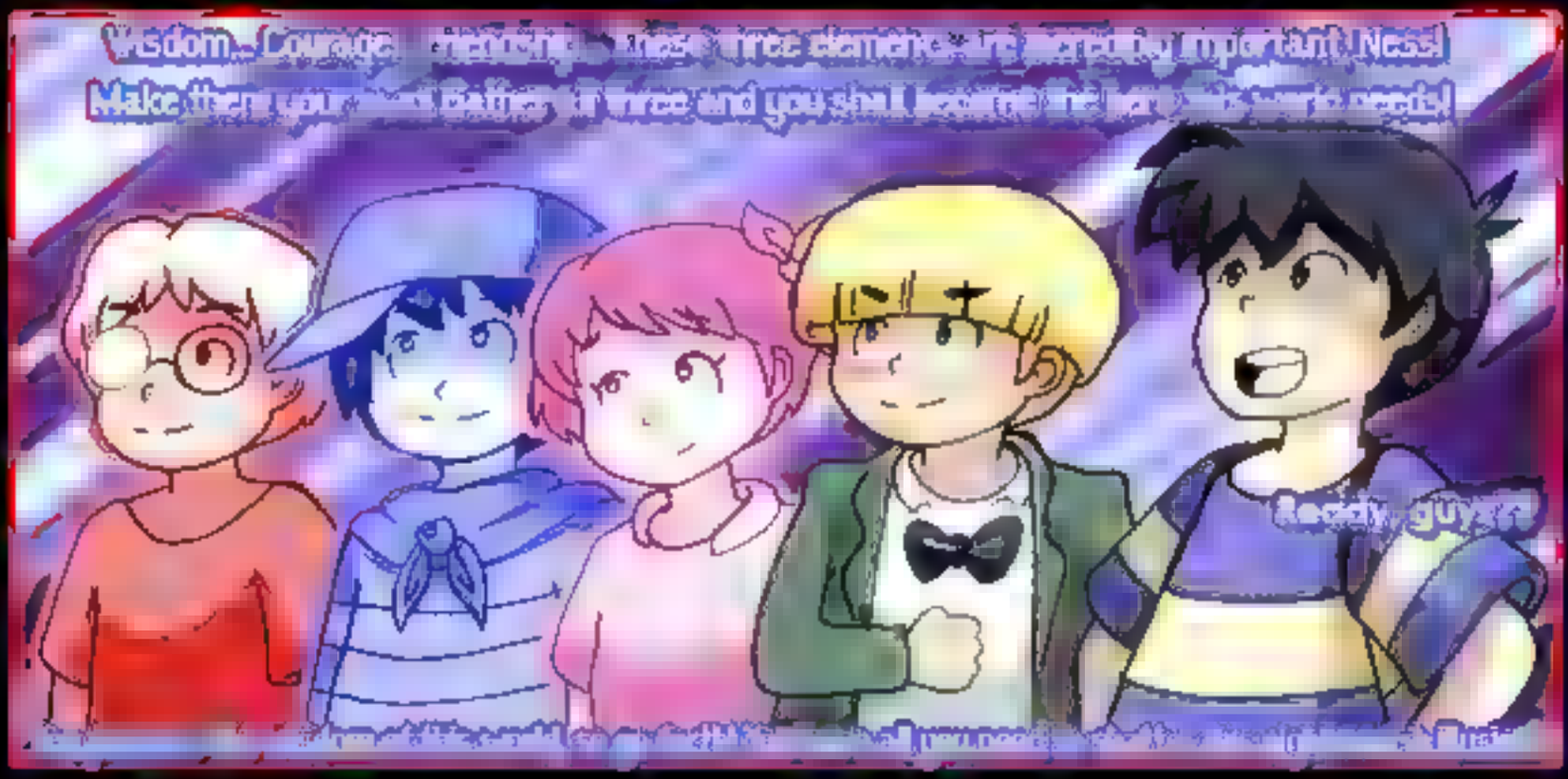
Ness...
Jeff! It's me!! I can hear you!!
Ness...
Your friend is waiting, Ness! Go forward and join him once more!
Ness...
Jeff, hold on! I'm on my way!
Ness... You are strong. Strength was something I lacked. That is why I lost.
I will disappear with this place. For me, this is as far as I can go. However, I will use the last of my power to allow your escape.
Together, we will break this illusion.
I'm going on ahead...
...Ness...
...Thank you.
My body is finally moving once again...
...but, Ninten...does your body exist outside of this place? Where will you go?
...Ninten?
...He's gone.

for letting you down...
Ness...
My eyelids feel so heavy right now...
So please... let's...still be friends, okay...?
Jeff, it's okay... You've done enough.
...Thank you...
Please... Please tell me you're not an illusion...
You're alive!!
I... I tried everything I could to reach you and...
...and it worked!
Together, we can break free!

NESS!!!
DON T-JO
NI NI
N ESS!!

First a weird burst of light, now this voice...
what he meant.


Um... I'm not sure I understand, but... No matter what, I believe in you, Ness!
I understand! The wisdom you have shown me...
I won't let it go to waste! Ninten, I will pick up where you


Wisdom... Courage... Friendship... These three elements are incredibly important, Ness!
Make them your [illegible] Gather [illegible] three and you shall become the hero this world needs!
Ready, guys?

Ah, there!
...Okay, all set!

NESS!
DO NOT DO IT!
STAY BACK!
STAY BAAAAACK—
NESS NESS NESS NESS NESS NESS NESS!
YOU
ARE NOT NESS
NEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEESS
YOU ARE NESS!

A little bit more...
It's finally beginning to form
Do you hear me?!
You're MY body, so listen up!
In this illusion, I can become whole as well
I won't be left behind again!
This is my chance to fight!
Haaaah... Just in time! There is no way you're getting past me now that I'm here, so give it up!
I may not have any special power
I may not be one of the chosen
I have no regrets for anything I gave up to help my friends
On this back I have carried the people who saved the world!
Now Ness, I will show you my strength!
This is what a man can do when he gives it his all!

of strength!
Once I was a fearsome foe, but now instead
of fear I spread hope!
and motivational speaker
My voice has the power
Not through song, but through sheer
Let these words be the source of your
If a man yells loud enough... HE CAN DO ANYTHING!!
AAAAAAA
Amazing!!
He actually did it!!
The illusion is giving way!
to force the illusion into
an unbalanced state just
by yelling...
...It may be incredibly illogical

Survive, always believing in his future
Even if you die! Even if you fail! Get up again, and punch
Failure in the face until it turns into success!!
SHADDAP!!!!
Very well... I'll unleash everything I have here!

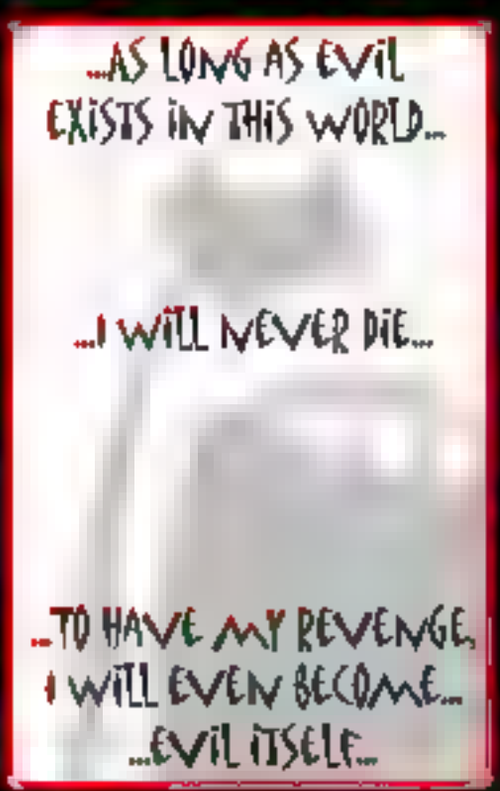
AND THAT IS TO WIN!!!
KABOOOOM!
KABOOOOM!
KABOOOOM!
KABOOOOM!

NESS...
N-NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU FIGHT...
N-NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO...
I WILL FIND YOU...

THEN COME AND GET ME!
I AM...RIGHT HERE!!!

ou are the light
hat will pierce the
darkness!!
SMAAAAAASH!!
I WON'T LOSE!!
As long as my friends
are with me, I will
save this world!!

N...NESS... I WILL NOT...FORGET...
KNOW THAT I WILL ALWAYS
BE WATCHING...
crack
crack
crack


...AS LONG AS EVIL
EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...
...I WILL NEVER DIE...
...TO HAVE MY REVENGE,
I WILL EVEN BECOME...
...EVIL ITSELF...

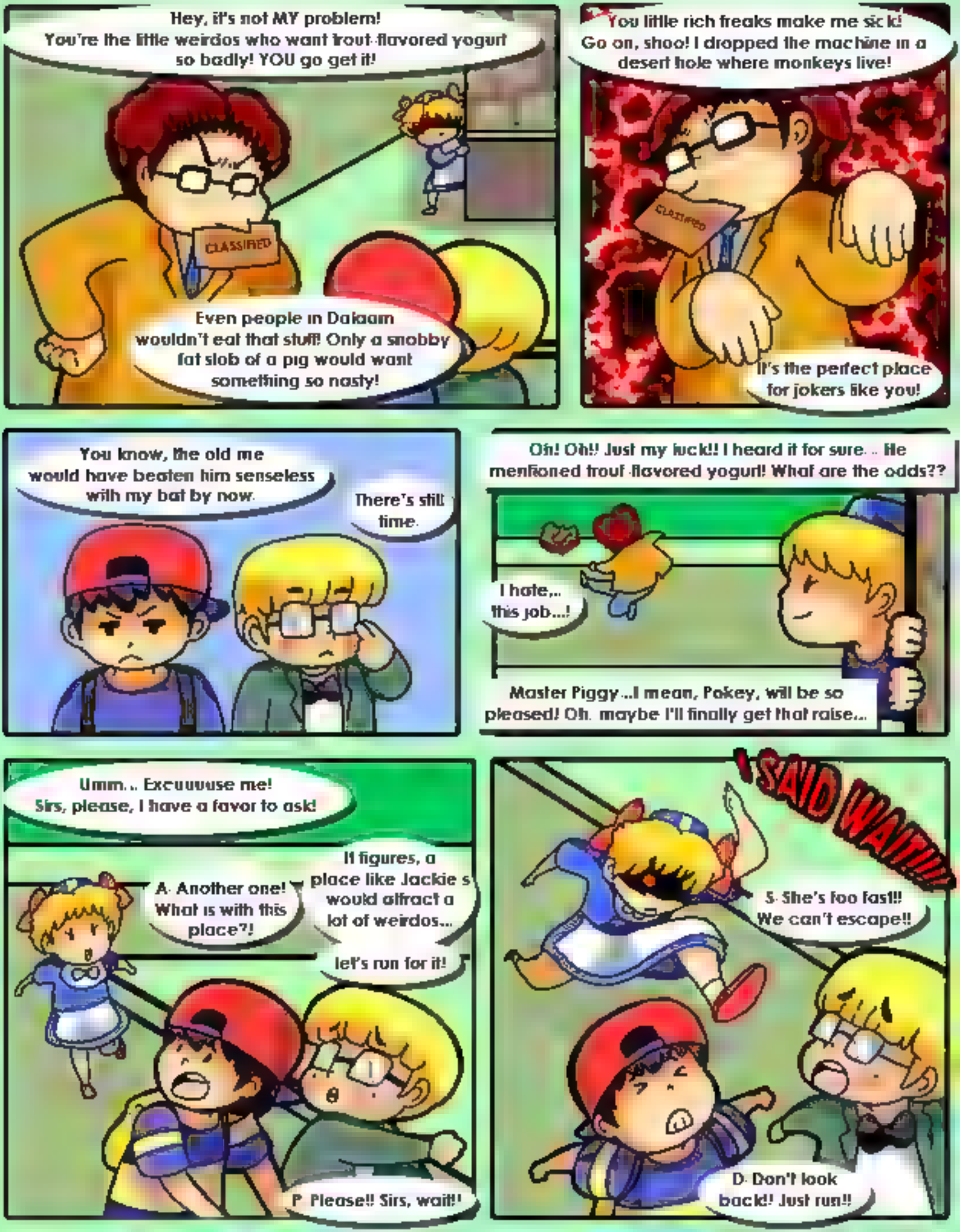
YOU CANNOT RUN...
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE...

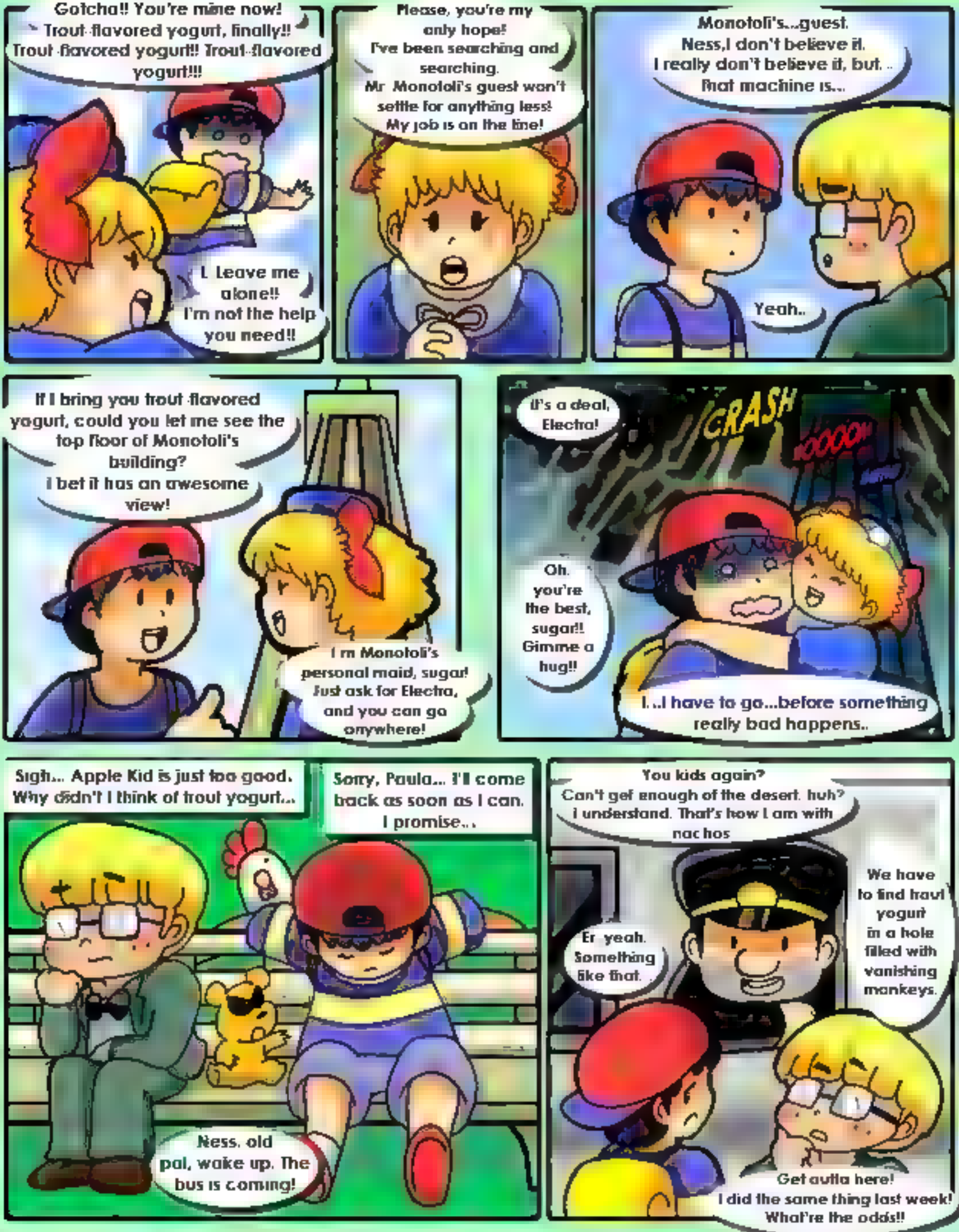
KLUNK
...Ah! D-Did I do it?? It's so bright, I can barely see anything.
It's starting to clear up! We're...back, I think... This is the cafe, right?
The Mani Mani.. So we never actually left, huh?
This must have been the result of that last attack.
...
Hahahaha!!
We did it!!
Hahahaha!!
Ahahahaha!!
WE'RE ALIVE!!!
I'm beginning to doubt the validity of these statues.
Sorry, no refunds.
After being in that illusion for so long, it's strange to actually feel at peace again...
Ninten, thank you... I can believe again...
Jeff, Paula is still out there waiting for us, I know it. We can't give up yet!
Well said, Ness! Let's go! Our search has only just begun!

Monotoli... He was within the illusion, too. I have to see him!
But we need a way to get to him fast ..
RIIIIIING!
Hopefully it's Apple Kid. We could really use a plot device...
Hmph... Apple Kid is going to steal my spotlight ..
Ooh, who is it??
Ness, it's been awhile! Apple Kid here. I have the next plot device ready for you!
Great timing! We could really use your help!
Although I have no name I do have a breakfast burrito. Please wait one moment as I heat it up for you, master
Oh, almost time to eat!
I'll get right to the point, then.
The "Gourmet Yogurt Machine!" It looks something like this.
Wow, looks neat!
What a scary looking device
It only makes trout-flavored yogurt right now though.
Well, at least master's microwave is normal
It's not broken, honest!!
NUCLEAR LAUNCH INITIATED TAKE IMMEDIATE SHELTER!!
SAY WHAAAAAAAAT!!!!
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN HAVE THIS?!?
FOR SCIENCE!!!!!!!!!!
KABOOOOOM!!!!
Wait... Did you say trout-flavored yogurt? ...Apple Kid? ...Hello?
BEEEEEEP

You kids get out and stay out!! This place is only a hotel for when you've had too many coffees! Go play hopscatch or whatever it is kids these days do!
Er sorry mister
Getting scolded can be a scary experience too
My eyes... It feels like it's been so long since I've seen the sun. But... I'm glad... We've made it to another day...
I'm a bit worried about Apple Kid though
Let's pay him a visit and see what happened! We have to go pick up that machine anyway, right?
Maybe he'll send it through the pizza guy again like in Threed
Pizza. Come to think of it, I'm pretty hungry
HUFF HUFF HUFF
UKE KYA KEKE!! (I can do it this time! I know it!!)
Uuuuuke!! Kokyu ukki!! (THIS IS IT!! The wind beneath my arms! This crisp, buttery sensation! I FEEL IT!!)
...M-MONKEY!!
...OUT OF NOWHERE...
UUUUUUUKEEEEEEE! (Telepoooooooooor-)
GRAAAAAASH!!
Well, sometimes you just have to take what life gives you
Cluck Cluck Cluck
DON'T YOU DARE EAT THAT MONKEY!

Monkey! Hey, are you okay?? Hang in there! Stay with us, monkey!
Keke... ku kya... (A monkey's natural enemy... wails...)
Uke!! Kukya ka ukki keke uke!!! (Oh! This is no time to goof off! Talah Rama has finished fasting! You must come to the desert at once!)
Ukki kya kauike kokya! (It is imperative that you come! Please. listen to my words!)
Kya ukki kukya! (I'll go on ahead to the western cave! I can teleport. you know!)
Uke! Ukeeeeeeee!! (Time to go back! Telepooooooort!)
A vanishing monkey? Any idea what he was chattering about?
Towel Ramen. The desert Sorry I can only understand a little bit of monkey
Alright! Nailed it!
CLASSIFIED
KICK!!!
Oof!!
I'm making great time, but man does this job suck. Stupid package, deliver yourself!
Waops. Sorry kid. I couldn't get the package past that giant head of yours.
CLASSIFIED
E-Excuse me? Who are you?
Escargo Express, Neglected Class. I have.. well, HAD a package for you.
I kinda lost it. you see And by "kinda" I mean "definitely"
CLASSIFIED
And I thought I was bad at MY job


Hey, it's not MY problem!
You're the little weirdos who want trout-flavored yogurt so badly! YOU go get it!
CLASSIFIED
Even people in Dakaan wouldn't eat that stuff! Only a snobby fat slob of a pig would want something so nasty!
You little rich freaks make me sick!
Go on, shoo! I dropped the machine in a desert hole where monkeys live!
CLASSIFIED
It's the perfect place for jokers like you!
You know, the old me would have beaten him senseless with my bat by now.
There's still time.
Oh! Oh!! Just my luck!! I heard it for sure... He mentioned trout-flavored yogurt! What are the odds??
I hate... this job...!
Master Piggy...I mean, Pokey, will be so pleased! Oh, maybe I'll finally get that raise...
Umm... Excuuuuse me!
Sirs, please, I have a favor to ask!
A- Another one! What is with this place?!
It figures, a place like Jackie s would attract a lot of weirdos...
let's run for it!
P- Please!! Sirs, wait!!
I SAID WAIT!!!
S- She's too fast!! We can't escape!!
D- Don't look back! Just run!!

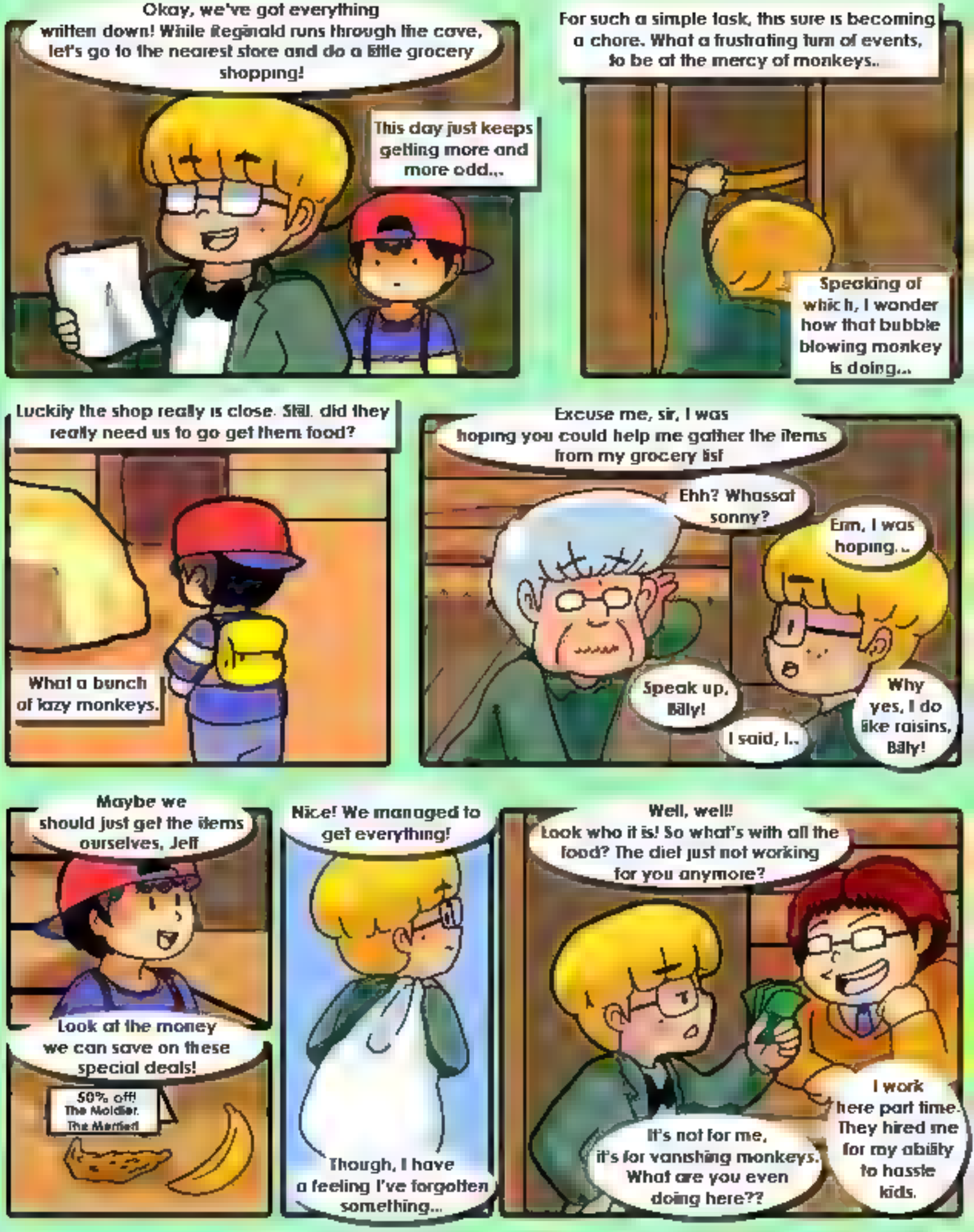

Gotcha!! You're mine now! Trout-flavored yogurt, finally!! Trout-flavored yogurt!! Trout-flavored yogurt!!!
Leave me alone!! I'm not the help you need!!
Please, you're my only hope! I've been searching and searching. Mr. Monotoli's guest won't settle for anything less! My job is on the line!
Monotoli's...guest. Ness,I don't believe it. I really don't believe it, but... that machine is...
Yeah..
If I bring you trout-flavored yogurt, could you let me see the top floor of Monotoli's building? I bet it has an awesome view!
I'm Monotoli's personal maid, sugar! Just ask for Electra, and you can go anywhere!
It's a deal, Electra!
CRASH
Oh, you're the best, sugar!! Gimme a hug!!
I...I have to go...before something really bad happens..
Sigh... Apple Kid is just too good. Why didn't I think of trout yogurt...
Sorry, Paula... I'll come back as soon as I can. I promise...
Ness, old pal, wake up. The bus is coming!
You kids again? Can't get enough of the desert, huh? I understand. That's how I am with nachos
Er, yeah. Something like that.
We have to find trout yogurt in a hole filled with vanishing monkeys.
Get outta here! I did the same thing last week! What're the odds!!

Looking at this scene again brings back a lot of memories. We haven't traveled far, yet a lot has happened since then...
Well, the bus dropped us off back on the western side. I think the cave was suppose to be around here...
Whoa, kid! You look like a real man's man. Have I got just the stuff for a beefcake like you!
Oh no!! They've come back to take me down!! I- If I stay still, maybe they won't see me
shake shake
shake shake
W- Why me??
It's your face, kid! You have a real "I want to blow stuff up!" face!
Don't you know? All of life's problems can be solved by blowing stuff up!!
Hard test to take? Blow it up! Don't like brussel sprouts? Blow them up! Ex-girlfriend got you down? Blow he... er no, wait, don't do that, kid!
This all sounds very illegal.
You know what's really illegal, kid? These savings.
That's right! For the next five minutes there's an EXPLOSIVE special package deal! It'll blow you away!!
I'll buy it, but only because I want you to stop talking.
Ukki Uke!! Kukki kya! (It's you! The boy with the red hat! Takah Rama is waiting, and so are my hungry...er, happy brothers!)
Oh, good, we're here! Sorry, monkey, I guess I should have brought a banana or something, huh? Heh heh!
Now I really look like a hero, right?? Let's go take on those monkeys, Ness!!
UKKI!! KIKKI!! (Y- YOU CAN'T ENTER DRESSED LIKE THAT!! A-ABSOLUTELY NOT!!)
Wow, Jeff! Cool pants!!

So you had to return everything? Even the cool pants??
Let's just say it's a good thing we can only be seen from the waist up for the time being.
Ukki kiki kya? (Oh, a human? This must be the boy I heard about.)
Hey, monkey, have you seen any trout-flavored yogurt around here?
(trout-flavored..wha?)
Ukki Ukki! Kya kokyo! (Oh, right! You're the..um...lucky guest! Man, we monkeys would sure love to help you, but these days help doesn't come for free, pal! Get my drift?)
Uh...Excuse me? Do you want a banana, then?
Kyaaaa! Uke kiki!! (Oooh, the pain! I'm so hungry I can't move, pal! A banana is nice, but nothing short of an entire picnic lunch can ease my pain! Oooh, darn, looks like I'm stuck here until you get me one! What a shame, bud!)
Uke ukki kya! (Oooh, yeah, the pain...and stuff! Man, like...so painful, y'know? What he said!)
Oh, I see how this is going to work. You're just going to extort food from us in exchange for the machine. Cute.
Kya! Uke uke!! (Now you're getting it!)
(You give a lot, you get a little! It's a harsh reality that comes with adulthood, but that's how the world works, chum!)
I really don't want to do this, but... I guess there's no choice..
Wow, you must have a lot of those. Jeff!
Uuuuuke!! Kya kokyo!! (Yeeeees!! Picnic lunch!! Buddy, if I hadn't just met you, I'd even give you the Monkey's Love!)

Say, monkey, I have an idea I'd like to share with you. An idea that would result in you getting a second picnic lunch.
Uki kya! (I'm aaaall ears..)
Reginald, good friend. How would you like to help me collect some treasure?
You had me at "uki."
Jeff's up to something.
Okay Ness, here's the plan! The monkey will bring his friends to us, and Reginald will track down the yogurt machine
They'll make their requests, I'll write it all down, and then we'll get everything at once!
(C'mon guys! We're gonna eat like king kongs tonight!)
HAMBURGER!!
PIZZA!
DINOSAUR!
RULER!
Okay, okay one at a time I can barely understand one of you
Uki uki! Kikki ki! (I want an egg and, um, I want a pizza, and um, I want a pet buffalo)
Uuuki kya. (I want a lifetime supply of hamburgers)
Uki? (That's it? Dumb ape.)
Kokya kiki. (I want one million dollars)
Only one million? That won't pay for your hospital bills.
(I-I changed my mind. I want nothing.)

Kyi kukkyo ukki!
(I want a dinosaur that is larger than anything!)
Kukki keke kuya!
(I want a dinosaur that will be larger than his dinosaur!)
I knew it seemed too easy...
Okay, change of plans. Those of you with reasonable requests, line up on the right.
If you want to request dinosaurs or expensive cars, go to the left
UNREASONABLE REQUESTS
REASONABLE REQUESTS
(Hey, hey!! What do the signs say?? I don't know where to go!)
Uki kiki
(The one on the left says "For Handsome Monkeys Only ")
(OH BOY!! THAT'S ME!!!)
Kiki kya
(Really? You're seriously going to fall for this?)
(I can't believe my sister married him...)


Okay, we've got everything written down! While Reginald runs through the cave, let's go to the nearest store and do a little grocery shopping!
This day just keeps getting more and more odd...
For such a simple task, this sure is becoming a chore. What a frustrating turn of events, to be at the mercy of monkeys..
Speaking of which, I wonder how that bubble blowing monkey is doing...
Luckily the shop really is close. Still, did they really need us to go get them food?
What a bunch of lazy monkeys.
Excuse me, sir, I was hoping you could help me gather the items from my grocery list
Ehh? Whassat sonny?
Erm, I was hoping...
Speak up, Billy!
I said, I..
Why yes, I do like raisins, Billy!
Maybe we should just get the items ourselves, Jeff
Look at the money we can save on these special deals!
50% off! The Moldier. The Mortier!
Nice! We managed to get everything!
Though, I have a feeling I've forgotten something...
Well, well! Look who it is! So what's with all the food? The diet just not working for you anymore?
It's not for me, it's for vanishing monkeys. What are you even doing here??
I work here part time. They hired me for my ability to hassle kids.

Hm... Jeff, i think we're missing a fresh egg. I don't see any here...
Drat... This is a problem.
Sir, I don't suppose this shop happens to keep any fresh eggs on hand, does it?
Fresh legs, you say? Ho ho, Billy, don't let this cane fool you! I can still groove like the best of them!
Sigh... What other option could we possibly have?
...
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK
CHICKEN! You're female, right?? You have to be! C'mon, lay eggs!!
You can do it, chicken! We believe in you!!
Back back back
Um...is it working? I can't tell...
I don't suppose you can summon Teddy somehow, huh, Ness...?
YAAAAH
Chicken! You and only you can make this happen!!
Go chicken! You are the one who can save this world!
Chicken! without your eggs we can never move forward! Lend us your strength!!
WILL YOU TWO WEIRDOS SHUT UP AND GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY?! YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT!!
...& Right...
Uh-uhm... Let's go back..

Um...well, I guess we can just let this one slide. It's not like we have to collect *every* item, right?
We'll try and get the 1/128 items on the next play through!
Er...read through? Well, whatever, let's get going!
Okay, monkeys, come and get it! Some of you may be left out, but this should meet the basic requirements to advance!
Ukki kya kukki! (I love this guy!!)
Kukki kikko! (Don't fret it, pal! You tried your best! ...I think!)
Alright, wait'll Ness hears about this!
Who knew helping out could actually be fun?
Reginald! So how did it go? Did you find the machine?
Not quite, but I found a lot of treasure. I'll be keeping it, of course
Anyway, come with me!
It was around here! I smell some serious treasure, but I need you to progress!
This is very disturbing.
Ah...er, wait. This wasn't it. I don't even want to know what's going on here.
Meow meow fss fsss! Coo coo pepe! (Hey pal! Thanks again for the egg!)
Let me know if you want to buy more.
My egg guy is pretty stocked.
Ah...hm ...wait, I guess it wasn't this door, either. Which way was it again?
FRESH!!
UKKI!! (PERVEEEERT!)
BONK
Ooi! W What's going on??
L-Let's just get out of here!!
Ukki kik! (Let me off here, pal!)

Oh, by the way, that odd monkey back there was guarding a really neat invention! I wonder if anyone would want to buy it from me...
Ever since I've learned how to talk to animals, I've come to realize... they're kinda ...jerks.
Oh, there it is! Look, that's what was blocking my path!
Hey, I've seen one of those before.
Wow. This brings back a lot of old memories. Reginald. I wonder if I'm strong enough to jump over it yet...
Better not risk it. Whoever built these sure knew what they were doing
I wonder where they came from. Ah, well, good thing I still have the Pencil Eraser!
Try not to fall in. my pool isn't finished yet.
Er... G- Good thing I have...the Pencil Eraser?
FOR SALE
I....I don't have...the Pencil Eraser...
Now that I think about it, I gave some stuff to Paula while I was renovating...
I...It's over. It's all over... We can't go on...
Let's just say we're about to learn an important lesson in item management.
W...We have to reset the comic. Sorry. but you'll have to go back to Page 1...
Reginald, I don't understand. Why is Ness taking this so hard?

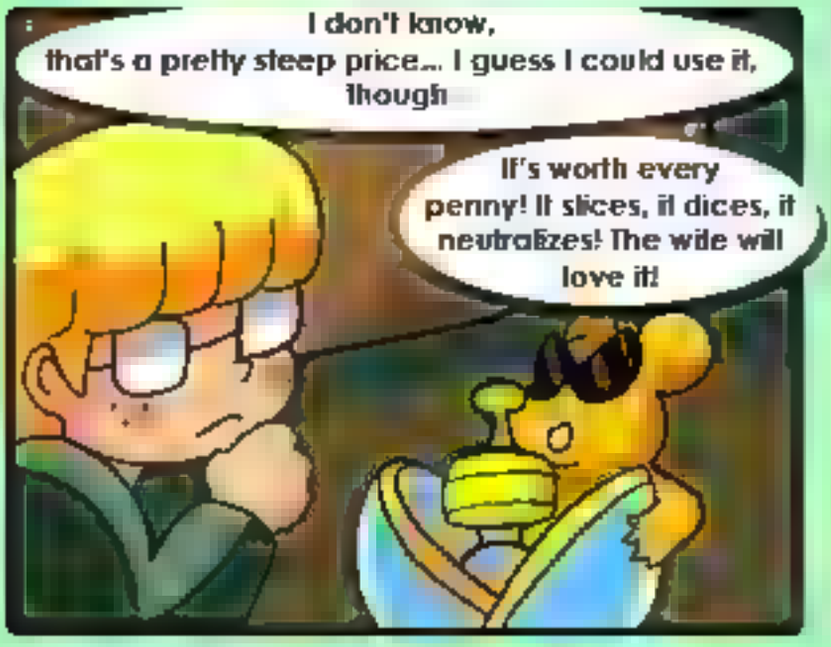
I can't believe we have to start all over again... What will happen to everyone else once I start a new game, I wonder...
Waaaait!! Big Bro, don't do it!! You don't have to erase the game...comic ... whatever! I can help you, so come back! Hurry! Pick up your phone!!
T Tracy!! Is it really you??
Hee hee! Of course it's me, silly!
Your adorable little sister is here to save the day!
An emergency express package arrived for you!
Listen! The strangest thing happened a little while ago!
At my job, these are extremely rare! Only the rich can afford to send these!
W Wow, really?? Is if that important of an item?
Good thing you got that j ...wait, what???
That's right, big brother! I'm a part time worker at Escargo Express! Employee of the Month, too!!
She's our hero!
Eagleland's treasure! Our pride and joy!!
Getting an emergency express package is so rare, it's a huge deal for the company! This package was sent with the utmost care, so we must deliver it with that same care!
The girl who sent it...Paula... She must care about you with all her heart if she paid to have this sent!
I won't lose though!
I care about my big bro just as much!!
Just you watch! I can help, too!!

Paula... Even when in trouble, she's still finding ways to help us... On the bright side, though, this is proof that the alien was lying...
Who is Paula?? Is she your girlfriend?
You'd better let me know, or I'll tell mom!!
What's this? Juicy gossip? ...Hmm. A girlfriend?? Ness, you sly dog..
S-She's a special girl I met... I'll explain later
Look, Tracy, you're still a kid. I'm a grownup now, life is more complicated when you're my age.
S-So... um, don't tell mom, please.
Okay, but...on one condition!
Mom won't buy me a puppy, our neighbors are weird, and King smells funny! I want to see you again!
I miss you so please come home soon, okay??
Well excuuuse me, sister
Hahaha... Tracy, you're such a baby...
Dad doesn't have enough money for a puppy, and King probably smells because you haven't been bathing him again! ..Our neighbors ARE freaks, though.
Gosh!!! I am NOT a baby!!
I have a very bad feeling about this phone call. Almost as if... someone mentioned the dreaded "b-word"...
Okay, Tracy you have my word.
I promise, I'll come visit soon and I'll even bring Paula!
And while we may be far apart, we'll always be family! So what do you say about lending your caring big brother some support?
Deal!! I'll send your package out right away, so hang in there, bro!!
Psst hey King, guess what?? Ness is coming home soon!!
Do you see this? Are you looking? This is my happy face.

Thank you Tracy... Because of you we'll be alright
I'll be right back, Jeff! I'm going out to wait for the delivery!
Gotcha! I'll be waiting!
Okay this is the spot! I'll definitely get a big catch today!
Hee hee... Look at that, a kid with a red hat is coming out of that hole! The poor sap is all mine!
Let's see...the package should probably be coming from the west...
Ho ho! A package, huh? I bet it's a rare item!
HUFF. HUFF.
I'm heeeere! Escargo Express, at your service!
Oh, here it comes! That was faster than I expected...
T Tracy's brother! Oh, wow! It is an honor to deliver you this package, sir!
IT'S MINE!!
Ah, thanks... I taught Tracy everything she knows!
TAMPERING WITH THE MAIL IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE!! You still sure you want to risk it?! EH?! EEEHHH?!?!
WHAT'S THIS?! WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?!
I-I've had a sudden change of heart

OUT OF MY WAY!
I won't give this package up for anything!
SKITTER

Farewell, young man! I will forever remember this day! Any family of Tracy's is family to all of us at Escargo Express as well!
Neal!! I'll see you at my next birthday party, Tim!
Bring lots of presents!


I don't know, that's a pretty steep price... I guess I could use it, though
It's worth every penny! It slices, it dices, it neutralizes! The wife will love it!

I'm back! This is the Pencil Eraser, and our ticket out of here!
Great! Let's get to it then!

Surely the yogurt dispenser is just past here... And then, we'll be able to finally save Paula!
RUB
RUB
Almost there...

Ness, we've found it!! That's it, the yogurt dispenser!
Ah, Ness how good of you to
& I've been waiting for
How is that a yogurt dispenser?! It's a floating old man!
Um Hello ?
That's just for looks! Go on, give him a squeeze!
Nothing good can come from that!!

Ahem...
The wisdom of the world has revealed itself to you once already.
Yet, you will not understand until your universe awakens.
The rays of the sun...
The blooming of the lotus...
Ness...
Paula...
Jeff...
and Poo...

"The truth"...? My "universe"... I don't understand.
It's true that I've gained wisdom about my journey in Moonside...
But stuff like fate and my destiny... I don't know, it's too complicated...
To be honest, I agree with Ness... To think, even our fourth comrade seems to have been decided for us by "fate"...
I wonder, though. The name "Poo" sounds foreign. Could he be a native to the Chommo region?
This journey may end up taking us much further than I had expected.
Ukki kiki kuya! (Oh, hey! Sorry to interrupt all of this. uh, interesting talk but you guys were looking for a yogurt dispenser right??)
Kukki keke! (I just happen to have one for sale, heh heh!)
KIKI KOKYU!! (WHADDYA THINK YER DOIN'?! Give them that yogurt dispenser, NOW!! Don't make me say it twice!)
WHACK!!
UUUUKKI!! (Pbbbffffff! I jush bih mah longuh!!)
KUKKI KYAAAAA!! (GASP!! It's...it's.... MAN K. MAN!!)

{YOU LITTLE HOOCHEES!!
I go away for just a little bit and this is what I come back to?!}
{What a pathetic lot you all are! Don't you have any monkey pride?!}
{W..We were bad monkeys...}
{I....m so sorry...}
{I understand now how wrong it was for us to extort food from him...}
{You should be ashamed of yourselves!! Did you even know what this kid is here for?! He's trying to save his sweetheart! Your selfishness has wasted his valuable time!!}
{I have failed as a monkey... P..Please...forgive me...!!}
{WAAAAHHHHH!!! WAAAH HAAAAAAHHHH!!!}
{D..Don't look at me! I'm not a monkey! ...I'm a monster...!!}
Oh, my. Those monkeys sure have become riled up, haven't they.
Ness, it looks like the time has come for you to awaken a new power.
Very few are capable of learning it. With this power, you will be able to connect with the flow of the cosmos and ride the wave of time and space to a chosen destination.
I'd teach you, but my schedule of floating in place is packed.
{Hey buddy!!}
So this monkey will teach you instead.
Excuse me. I overheard what you said to the others. You're a really nice monkey, you know? I'm going to go train now but I wanted you to have this banana that was thrown at my head. It's not much, but please enjoy it.
Kikki uka...
{I The King Banana...?!
H How did you know...}
Ukki kya
{I understand. This is embarrassing for the both of us. Let's just stay like this a little longer.}
Kukke keke.
{It is the will of the Monkey's Love.}

Kya keke kukka!
(We meet again, Ness! I'm the monkey who... er, almost ran into you in Fourside! I was in a hurry back then, but now we can spend some valuable time together Meet me outside okay??)
Sure, let's go!
Kukki kya kokyo ukki keke!
(You're my first student! I'm so excited!! What I'm about to teach you will change your life forever!! Are you ready??)
So what exactly will I be learning? To vanish?
Kukki keke!
(Hoho! Even better...)
(I'm going to teach you..
..a skill so amazing I have to stand in front of this backdrop just to announce it!!)
PSI TELEPORTATION!! WHOAAAAAAAAH!!!!
Gasp! No way!!
I can actually do that?? Wow, it's like I really AM a super hero!!
PSI power is absolutely incredible... Ness really is on a whole other level as a hero..
Ukki kiki kya! Keke!!
(Watch closely now! This is a technique that only a select few can master!)
(This method has been in development for centuries! Only a true genius can learn it!)
(Take a deep breath! Recall where you want to go and picture yourself riding a wave through the cosmos to that place! Sometimes the wave is straight, sometimes it spins in a circle...)
KUKKI KYAAA!
(And then, when you see it...
YOU RUN REALLY FAAAAST!!!!
(W-Why can't I stop picturing myself falling into the ocean!?!)

Kikiiii!
(Sit back and watch!
This is.. how you dooooo it!)
He did it!!
It really works!!
I had my doubts,
but...wow!! I wonder where
he went??
Kukki kya!
(I'll take all the burgers on the grill and small
fries! To go, please! I'm in a hurry, you see!!)
H-Hey! Monkey!!
I was next!
Aaaaiiieeee!! A wiki
teleporting monkey!! And he's
cutting in line!!
!OOOOM
Ukki keke...
(What a nice
girl! Nobody's
ever thrown so
many burgers
at me before.)
(She even threw
a bag to me so I
could carry them!)
Kiki kukki!
(Oh, the
training!
I almost
forgot!)
(The teacher's demonstration
is now over! I have taught
you everything I know!)
I think... I think I see it!! Is this the "wave" that
courses through time and space??
(Don't forget
-munch
munch-)
YAAAAHHH!!
Show yourself,
you stupid waver
(...about the waves and cosmos -munch munch-
and space...and stuff... Man, these burgers rock!)

(Great work, guys. We've finished it just in time. Okay, bring it out to the street so they can see us clearly!)

(Oh, I hope he likes it!!)

(Let's go, guys!)

(You're a genius, Man K. Man!!)

UKKI KIKI KYAAAAA!!!

(OKAY YOU CHIMPS!! LET'S GO!! WITH ALL OUR MIGHT!! 1 2 3!!)

Hahaha! This is as amazing as it is odd...

NEEEEESS!!! FIIILIGHT!!! WIN AND SAVE YOUR SWEETHEART LIKE I KNOW YOU CAN!! YOU ARE A HERO TO ALL MONKEYS, NESS! THESE ARE THE WORDS OF MAN K. MAN!! THEY ARE ABSOLUTE!!

NEEEESS!! We're sorry for everything!! YOU...YOU ARE JUST THE COOLEST!!!

I want to be just like Ness when I grow up!!

Jeff!! You're not so bad either! I... um.. I like your hair!!

COME BACK SOMEDAAAAY!!

NESS!! FIGHT!! NESS!! FIGHT!! GO NESS GO!!

NESS

I WAS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU!! YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS!!

W...WE LOVE YOU!

NESS... MY HERO!!

KYAAAA! NESSY POOOO!!

Monkeys... Thank you. I forgive you for tricking me, so don't worry. I'll definitely do it.

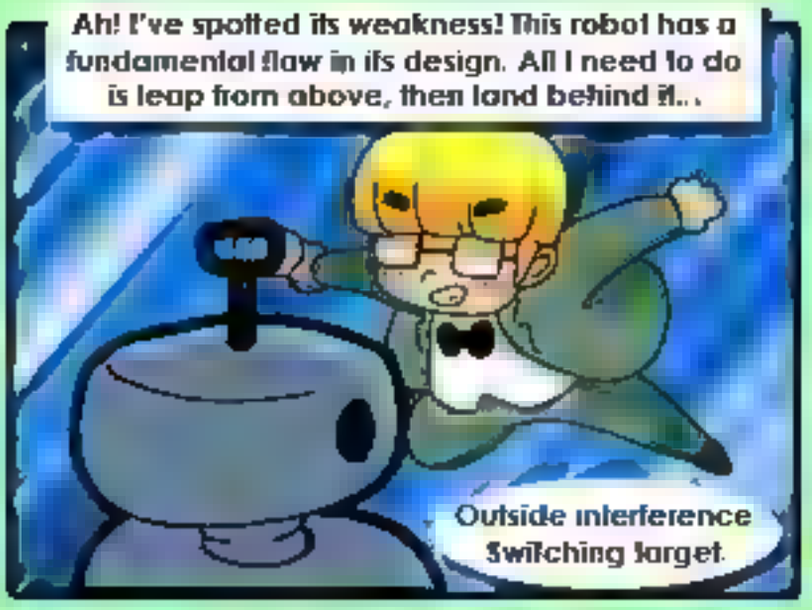
We met for only a short while. ... But we'll always be friends. I'll be going now, so... Take care.

Paula... I'm sorry I've kept you waiting so long...

At last, I can see you again!! We're finally coming to save you!!

I-Incredible... I still don't really get this whole "wave" thing, but I definitely saw a path curving through space just now... I've finally learned it... PSI Teleport!
ZWOOOOSH!
This has far exceeded my expectations.
If it were possible to harness this power into a machine, think of the possibilities...
I'm so excited, why...my glasses can't stop glowing!
We've returned to Fourside at last...
This place... holds a lot of bad memories.
Until now, I've never thought seriously about what it is I need to do.
But now, thanks to Ninten, Jeff, and everyone else who lent their support, I can move forward at last. I can make up for my mistake...
Although I'm a little frightened by what kind of power is growing inside me, I can't turn back now.
I'm obviously now I'm definitely not an ordinary kid, and this is no longer an "ordinary" journey.
I'm only going to get stronger from here, so I have to learn to control myself... I can't lose control again...
The one responsible for taking Paula...
It's possible that Pokey was behind it, but...
Monotoli...
He's just as much to blame.
It's up to me to put an end to this. It's about time I pay him a visit

Oh! the "sorta pervy" kid! Are you here on another errand?
Yes, ma'am! Er, sorry about what happened last time.
Come in, I'll take you to the forty seventh floor!
Thanks!!
YOU RE KIDDING ME! Tomorrow's his last show?!
That pig kid is pure evil, I tell you. I hear he masterminded the show's downfall
Gasp! So the rumors are true?! That big-chinned chimera I heard about is ?
Real. How do you think he made them cancel it?
Sneak Sneak
Of course Nobody with a brain would agree to that.
I hear he got rid of the chimera, but be careful.
Once you see the chin, it's all over
Hey cutie! You must be the one Electra mentioned... Come in, quick! Don't let anyone see you!
Uh..um.. sure..
Either this place is a front for a cloning facility, or Monotoli really, really likes twins
This floor definitely feels... different.
We'd better get ready, just incase.
Let's just peek into the next room and .. Oh? Ness, I don't see any monsters, but there's a robot in the hall!
That odd feeling I had... This whole floor is nearly devoid of life or sound It feels so empty
Secret code, please. Say your code in
SUSPECT IS CHECKING GAMEFAQS!! TERROR ALERT ORANGE!!
WOOOOP WOOOOP
SWITCHING TO ANNIHILATION MODE!! DO NOT PASS GO!! DO NOT DODGE!! GETTING SHOT IN THE FACE!!


Ah! I've spotted its weakness! This robot has a fundamental flaw in its design. All I need to do is leap from above, then land behind it...
Outside interference
Switching target

Target acquired!
Commence firing in... 3, 2, 1...

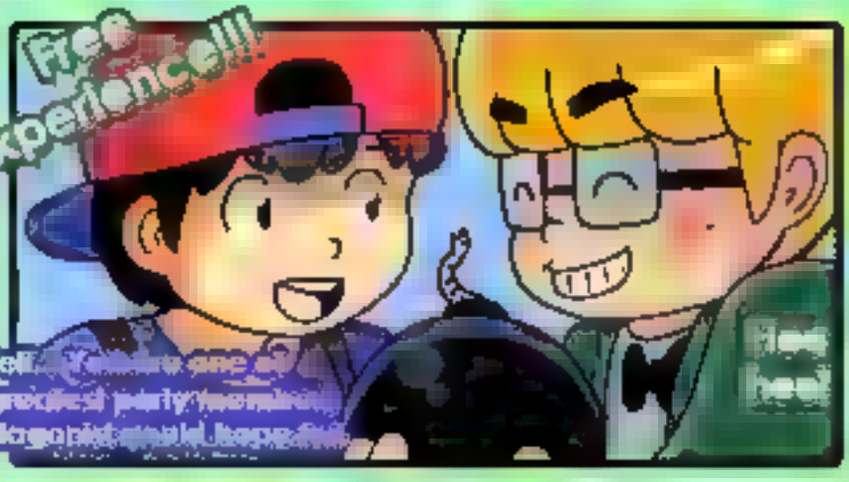
Target lost!
Shell... breached...
SHOOOOM!!
Des...truct...ion...in...3...2...

There's no time to run!! The bomb is going off! This calls for a slow motion... JUUUUUMP!!

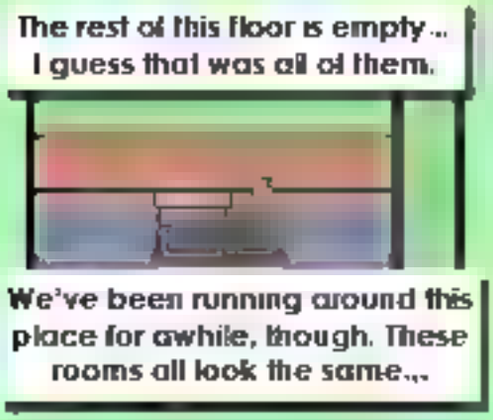
Um...Jeff, there's no bomb. Why did you just jump across the hallway?

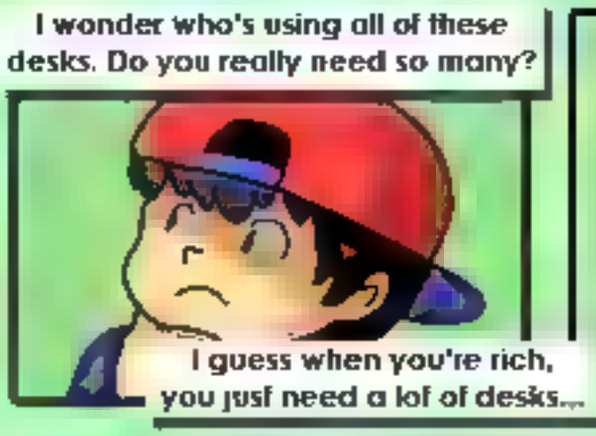
Security breach confirmed. All units, gather for immediate cleansing of the forty-eighth floor.

Jeff, look... five robots are all gathering in this room. What's going on?


Free experience!!!

Ha ha! I feel stronger already!
That was money well spent!
Now if only more of our enemies would give us these sort of opportunities...


The rest of this floor is empty... I guess that was all of them.
We've been running around this place for awhile, though. These rooms all look the same...

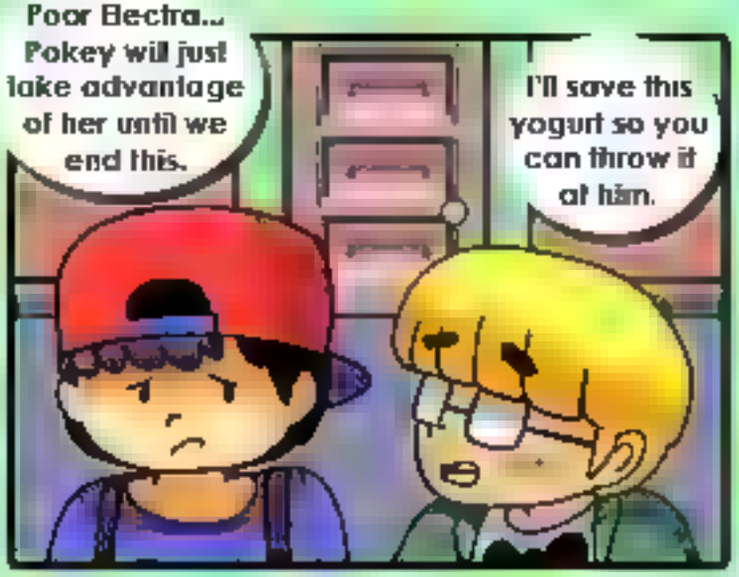

I wonder who's using all of these desks. Do you really need so many?
I guess when you're rich, you just need a lot of desks...

Desks, doors, desks, doors..
More desks...
More doors...

A maid... AH!! Electra!!
You made it!! Thanks a bunch, sweetie!!

Ooh! This is it!! How magnificent... Now I can calm Master Pokey!
Oh. I bet he'll finally be happy with me again...
Maybe I'll get that raise I've been hinting at!
F-Fast...!! When did she take that package from me??
W Wait... I did all of that for POKEY?!

Isn't he wonderful?
The other day he gave me an exotic dress and said "this is fit for a maid..."
He may be harsh at times, but he is a kind, caring soul...


Poor Electra... Pokey will just take advantage of her until we end this.
I'll save this yogurt so you can throw it at him.

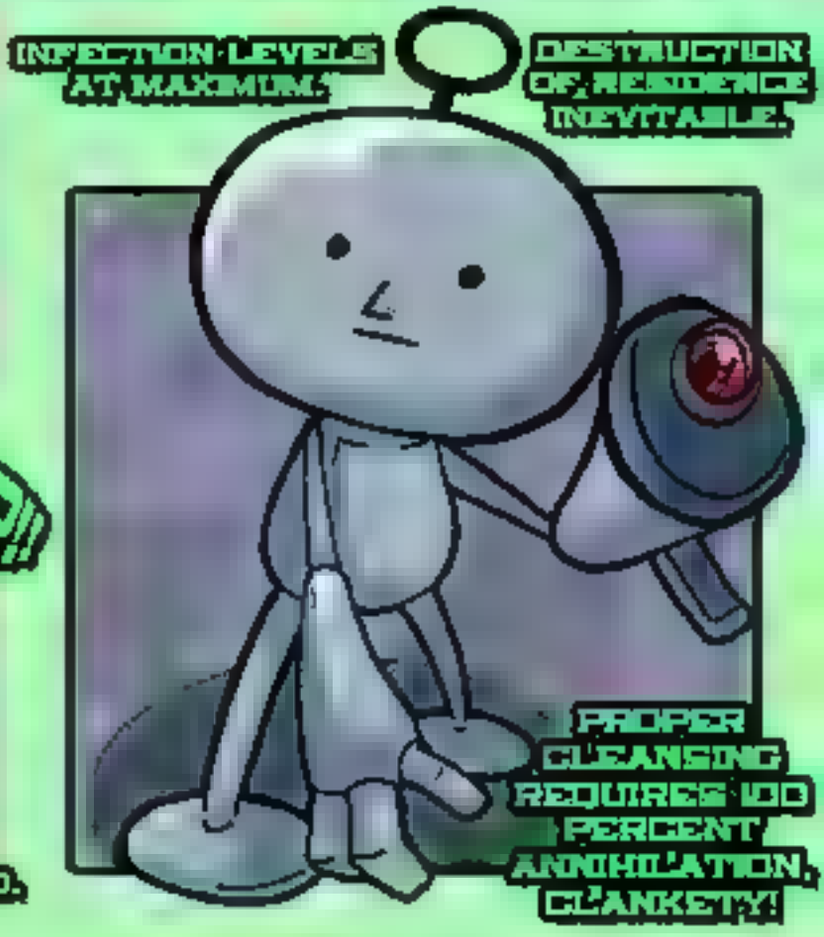
Clank
Clankety
Clank
Ping!
Rattle
Rattle

INTRUDER DETECTED. HALT! HALT, I SAY, CLANKETY!
GO NO FURTHER! CLANG!

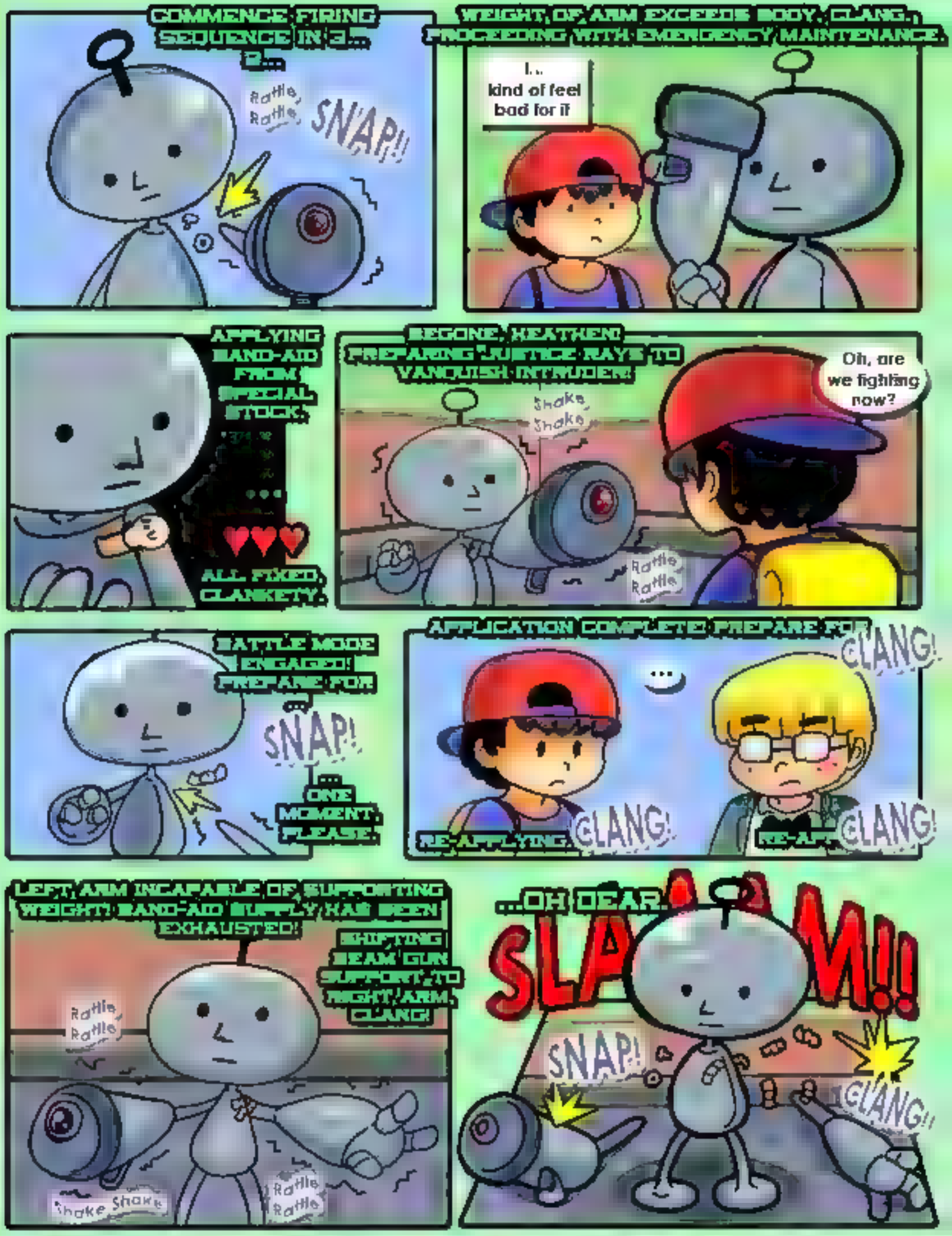
Um... So, are we going to battle, or are you going to stand there pointing?
Shake Shake
Shake Shake

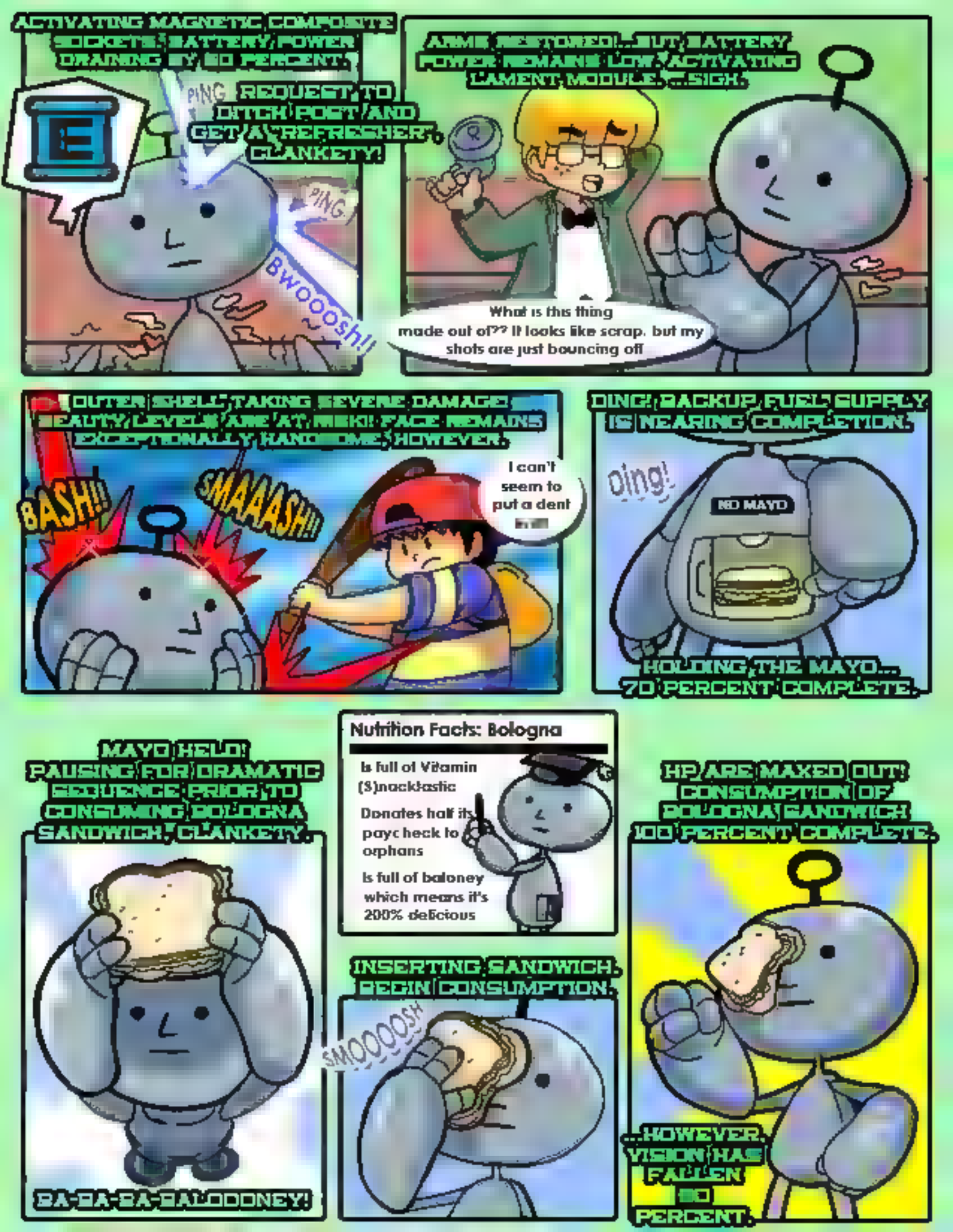
DUST DETECTED IN VICINITY. OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE MODE ACTIVATED!
Sweep
Sweep
ANXIETY LEVEL AT 40 PERCENT.
...50 PERCENT...

Now it's trying to clean the air...
Waggle Waggle

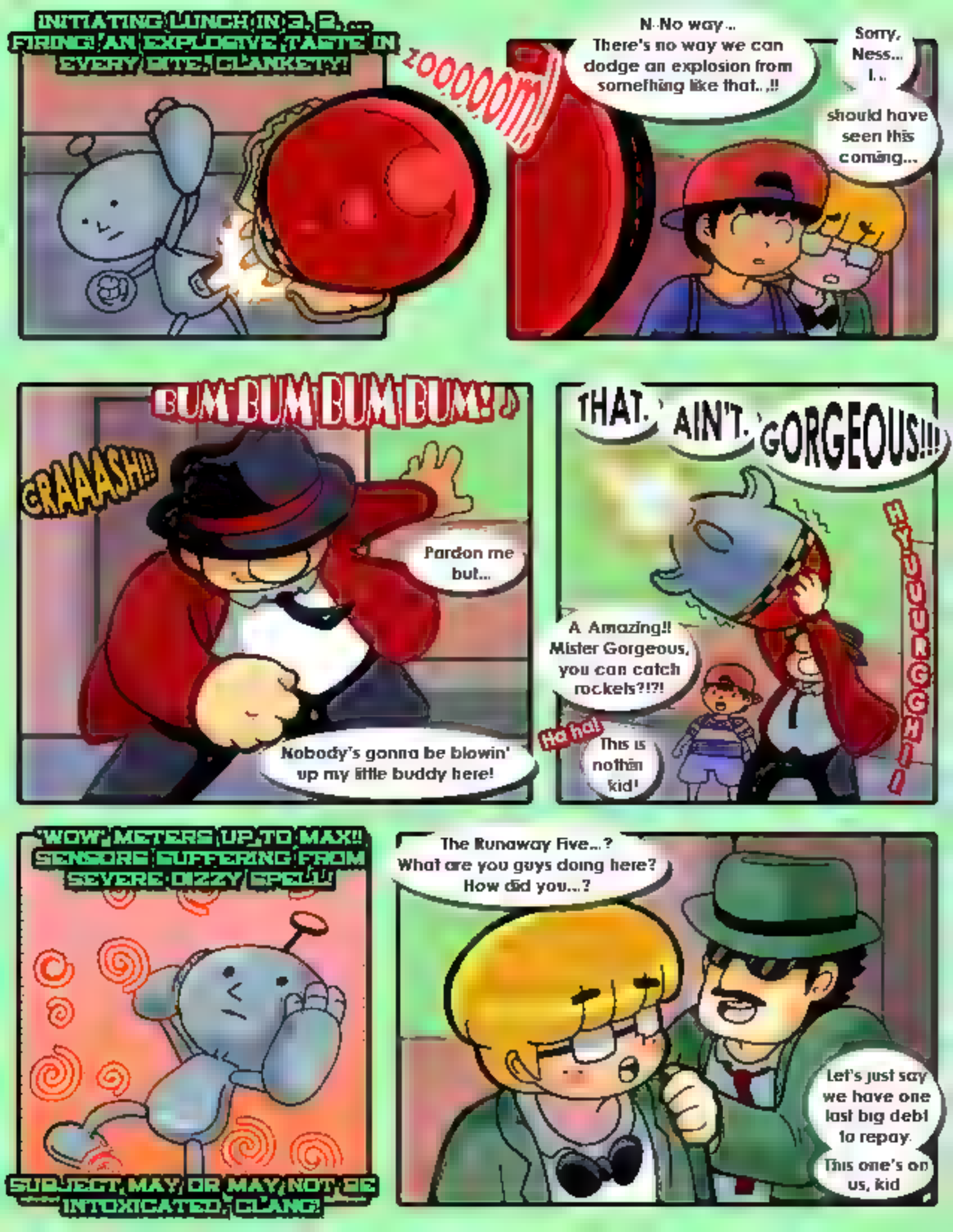

INFECTION LEVELS AT MAXIMUM.
DESTRUCTION OF RESIDENCE INEVITABLE.
PROPER CLEANSING REQUIRES 100 PERCENT ANNIHILATION, CLANKETY!

Must be a broken cleaning robot. Well, no harm, I guess.
GASP!!
We may as well just go ahead to the
SECURITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.


COMMENCE FIRING SEQUENCE IN 3...
2...
Rattle, Rattle,
SNAP!!
WEIGHT OF ARM EXCEEDS BODY. CLANG., PROCEEDING WITH EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE.
I... kind of feel bad for it
APPLYING BAND-AID FROM SPECIAL STOCK.
ALL FIXED, CLANKETY.
BEGONE, HEATHEN! PREPARING "JUSTICE RAYS" TO VANQUISH INTRUDER!
Shake, Shake
Oh, are we fighting now?
Rattle, Rattle
BATTLE MODE ENGAGED! PREPARE FOR...
SNAP!
...ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.
APPLICATION COMPLETE! PREPARE FOR...
CLANG!
...
RE-APPLYING.
CLANG!
RE-AP.
CLANG!
LEFT ARM INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING WEIGHT! BAND-AID SUPPLY HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED!
SHIFTING BEAM GUN SUPPORT TO RIGHT ARM. CLANG!
Rattle, Rattle
Shake Shake
Rattle, Rattle
...OH DEAR.
SLAM!!
SNAP!
CLANG!!

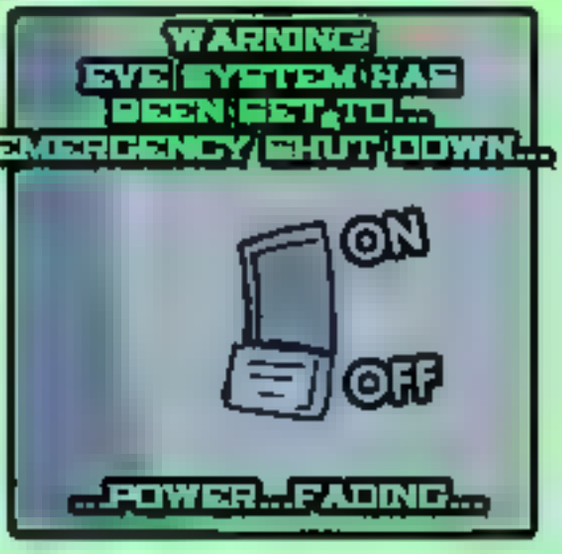

ACTIVATING MAGNETIC COMPOSITE SOCKETS! BATTERY POWER DRAINING BY 80 PERCENT!
PING
REQUEST TO DITCH POST AND GET A "REFRESHER", CLANKETY!
PING
BWOOOSH!!
ARMS RESTORED!...BUT BATTERY POWER REMAINS LOW! ACTIVATING LAMENT MODULE. ...SIGH.
What is this thing made out of?? It looks like scrap, but my shots are just bouncing off
OUTER SHELL TAKING SEVERE DAMAGE! BEAUTY LEVELS ARE AT MEK! FACE REMAINS EXCEPTIONALLY HANDSOME, HOWEVER.
BASH!!
SMAAASH!!
I can't seem to put a dent in it
DING! BACKUP FUEL SUPPLY IS NEARING COMPLETION.
ding!
NO MAYO
HOLDING THE MAYO... 70 PERCENT COMPLETE.
MAYO HELD! PAUSING FOR DRAMATIC SEQUENCE PRIOR TO CONSUMING BOLOGNA SANDWICH, CLANKETY.
BA-BA-BA-BALOOONEY!
Nutrition Facts: Bologna
Is full of Vitamin (S)nacktastic
Donates half its payc heck to orphans
Is full of baloney which means it's 200% delicious
INSERTING SANDWICH. BEGIN CONSUMPTION.
SMOOOOSH
HP ARE MAXED OUT! CONSUMPTION OF BOLOGNA SANDWICH 100 PERCENT COMPLETE.
...HOWEVER, VISION HAS FALLEN TO 80 PERCENT.

This robot... is unbeatable! The only hope we have is to sneak by it while its vision is still down. Really, who would have ever thought a sandwich could cause a status effect...
SCANNERS NO LONGER DETECTING INTRUDERS IN VICINITY.
...SCANNERS PICKING UP MASS QUANTITIES OF BOLOGNA! BOLOGNA OVERLOAD. EJECT!
VISION AT 100 PERCENT! INTRUDER ATTEMPTING TO SNEAK OUT! INITIATE 'LAST RESORT' METHOD.
ALL POWER CONVERGING TOWARDS REAR HATCH! SWITCHING TO GAS POWERED PROPELLING SYSTEM. PREPARE TO BE SANDWICHED.
LAUNCHING SPECIAL OF THE DAY! CLANG! PROJECTILE BOLOGNA CONFIRMED! TARGET: YOUR FACE!
SWOOOOOOSH!!!
Now it's firing... bologna sandwiches?! What kind of attack is that?? Could this battle possibly get any stranger?!
...Wait no, please don't answer that
PREPARING SECONDS. BOLOGNA NO LONGER IN STOCK! ALTERNATING WITH EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS.
...Too late

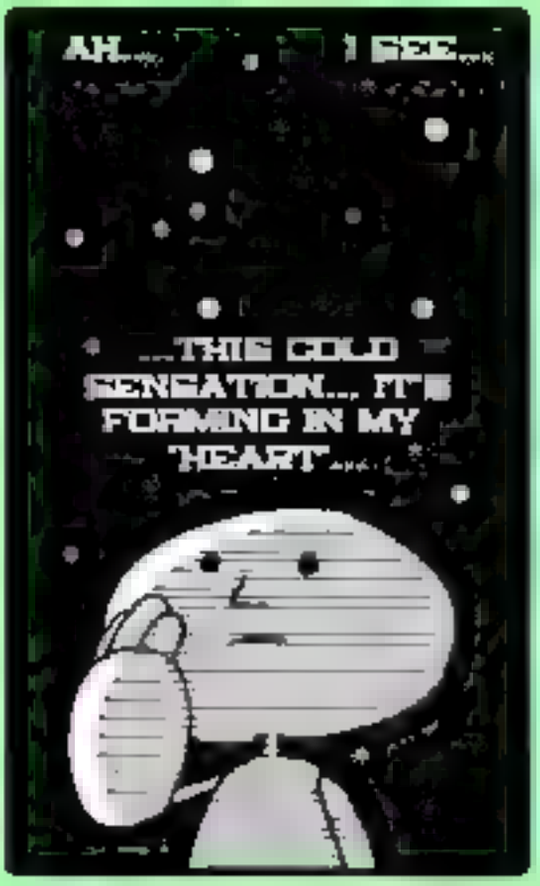

INITIATING LUNCH IN 3, 2, ...
FIRING! AN EXPLOSIVE TASTE IN EVERY BITE, CLANKETY!
ZOOOOOM!
N-No way...
There's no way we can dodge an explosion from something like that..!!
Sorry, Ness... I...
should have seen this coming...
BUM BUM BUM BUM! ♪
GRAAASH!!
Pardon me but...
Nobody's gonna be blowin' up my little buddy here!
THAT. AIN'T. GORGEOUS!!!
GORGEOUS!!
A Amazing!! Mister Gorgeous, you can catch rockets?!?!
Ha ha!
This is nothin kid!
"WOW, METERS UP TO MAX!! SENSORS SUFFERING FROM SEVERE DIZZY SPELL!"
SUBJECT MAY OR MAY NOT BE INTOXICATED, CLANG!
The Runaway Five...?
What are you guys doing here?
How did you...?
Let's just say we have one last big debt to repay.
This one's on us, kid

Nothin' personal, but we owe these kids big time We ain't leavin' until we settle the score y'see.
Hey ya loser robot! Who do ya think you're messin' with?!
Ya can't just go firin' off missiles as you please!
That just ain't cool, y'know?
Until you behave yourself, I'm gonna have to put you in time out

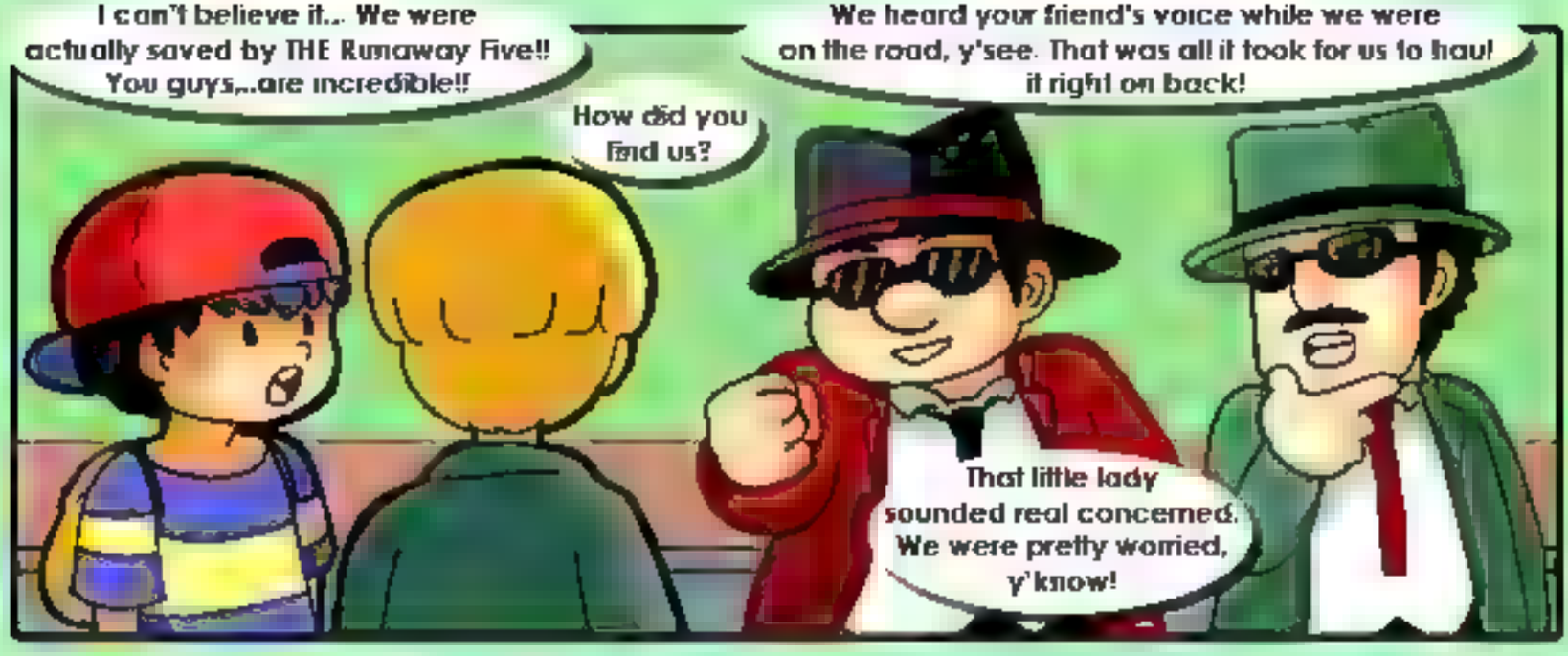
CLICK!!

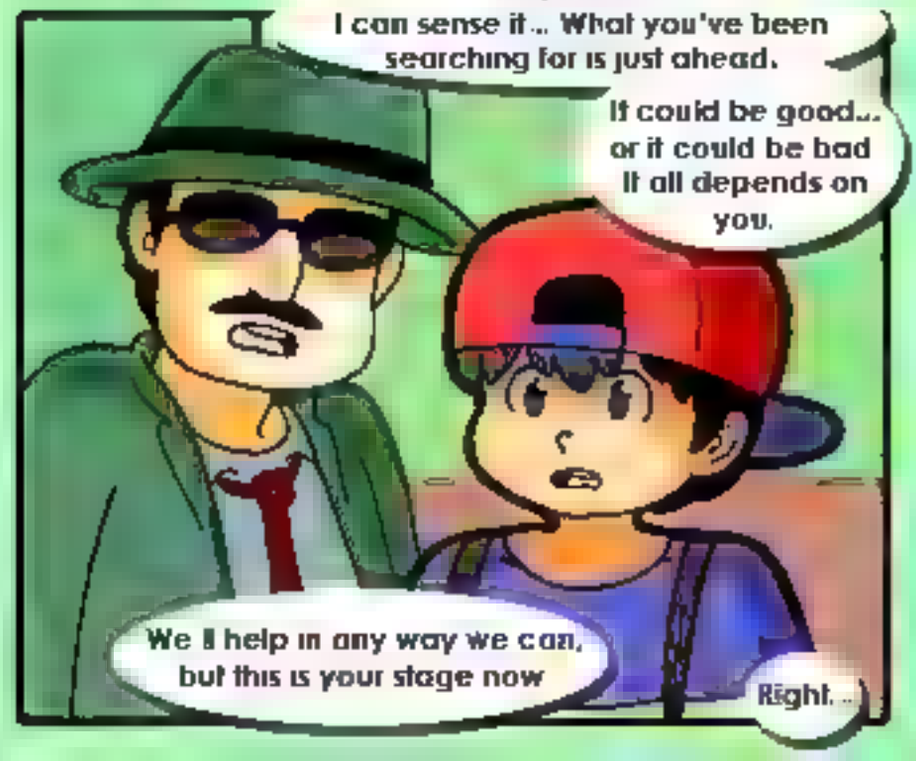

WARNING!
EVE SYSTEM HAS BEEN SET TO... EMERGENCY SHUT DOWN...
ON
OFF
...POWER...FADING...

WHAT IS...
THIS COLD FEELING?


AH... I SEE...
...THIS COLD SENSATION... IT'S FORMING IN MY HEART...

IT IS TIME TO REST AT LONG LAST...
ENTER...ING ...SLEEP...MODE...
...F..A..R..E... ...W..E..L..L...





Behind this door...

At last,
the time has come...!

Let's go!

N-No... He's here...
W-What am I going to do??
It's him!! That's the guy we saw in Moonside!! He's the one who had Paula kidnapped!!
Wait, Ness! He's just an old man!
P-Please S-Stay back.
There are no more enemies to fight! Try to stay calm! It's over!
Paula... I'm so close... I have to save Paula!!
N...Ness...?
Please! Stop!! I give up!! I give up!! I swear!!!!
MONOTOLI!!!! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!!
NOOOOO!! PLEASE, DONT COME ANY CLOSER!!!
I BEG YOU!! FORGIVE MEEEEE!!!

Don't hurt me!! P Please just leave me alone!!
I don't want to do this anymore!!
M-My legs...
Why won't they move??
I have...to run.. !!

Why was I such a fool...
This must be just punishment for my sins,
but still... I don't want to die!

AAAAAHHHH!!
PLEASE!!
DO NOT SWING THAT BAT!!
PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPASSION SPARE ME!! I BEG OF YOU!!!

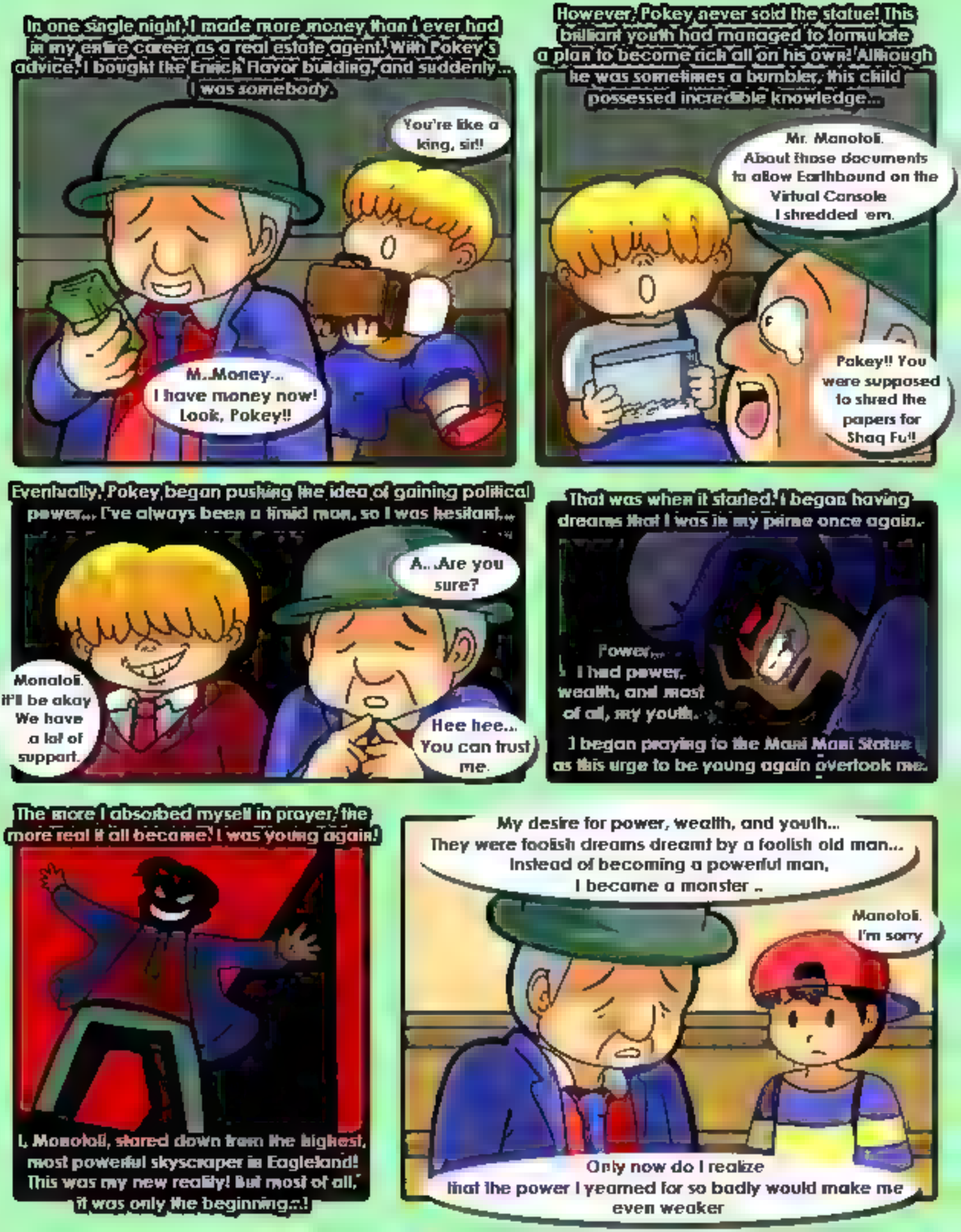
Please, Ness,.. Listen to him...
You must not attack Monotoli!
It's okay now... Everything is okay!

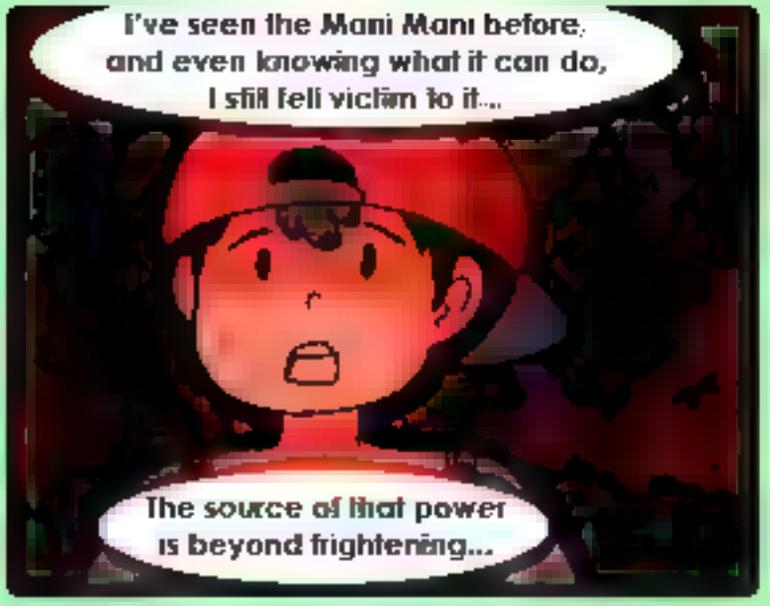
Please, hear my voice!
..I'm here!
Ness!! I'm right here!!

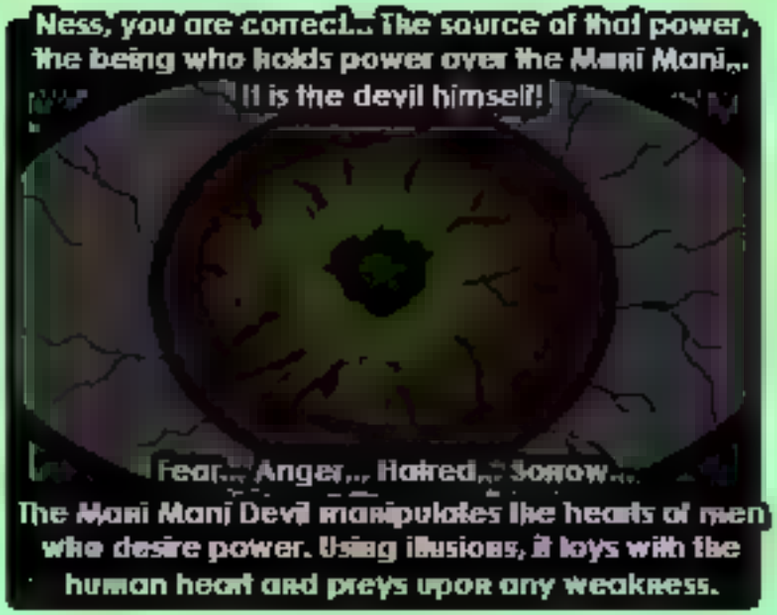
..! What am I doing?! This isn't the time to be fighting... There is something else I have to do. .
KLUNK
Paula.,. Paula!!!
Y You're here... You're really here!!
Ness!! I. ..
..I'm here! It's okay now!!
I'm okay, see??
P Paula, I... ..Ah. ..
Ness! Watch out!!
Ness...? Ness. .. You must have been pushing yourself so hard ..
You look... so tired...
Are you sure you're okay ..? Ness...?
P Paula... I... I thought.. I thought i'd n-never see you again. ..!
..the monkeys took our food, there were robots, and...
T They told me you... And the alien said.,. And then Giygas...
I kept fighting... but you never came back... But now, you're right in front of me! I'm so happy .,

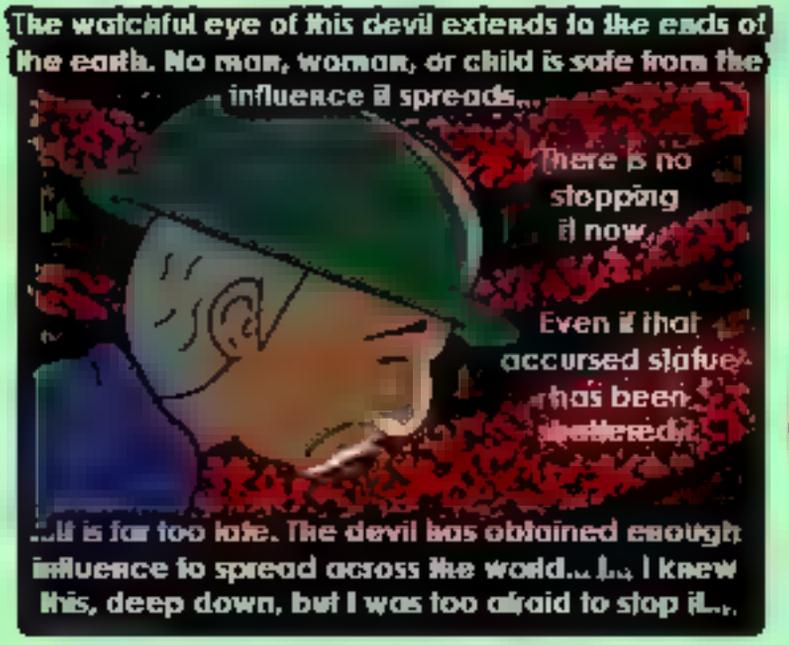
Ness, silly... You're not making any sense... Your face is covered in tears, but you should be smiling...
We should be happy, right..? Because... Because we're together at last...
So there's.... there's no reason to cry...
B-But I... I let everyone down...! You and Jeff... Even Buzz Buzz...
I wasn't able to protect you. I wasn't able to stop the enemy by myself...
Only with Ninten's help could I...
I... I'm sorry, Paula... I'm really sorry...
No, Ness... You never owe anyone an apology for what you're doing...
You don't have to carry this burden alone...
This world is indebted to you... As are Jeff and I...
And you are indebted to us as well. We are a team, right? But more than that... we're the best of friends...
To protect the precious ones around us...
Heh heh
...To protect the precious people we meet along our journey...
These kids're somethin' else...
T-These kids are amazing.
Shiff Shiff
Together once more. Let's become stronger so that we never have to part again.

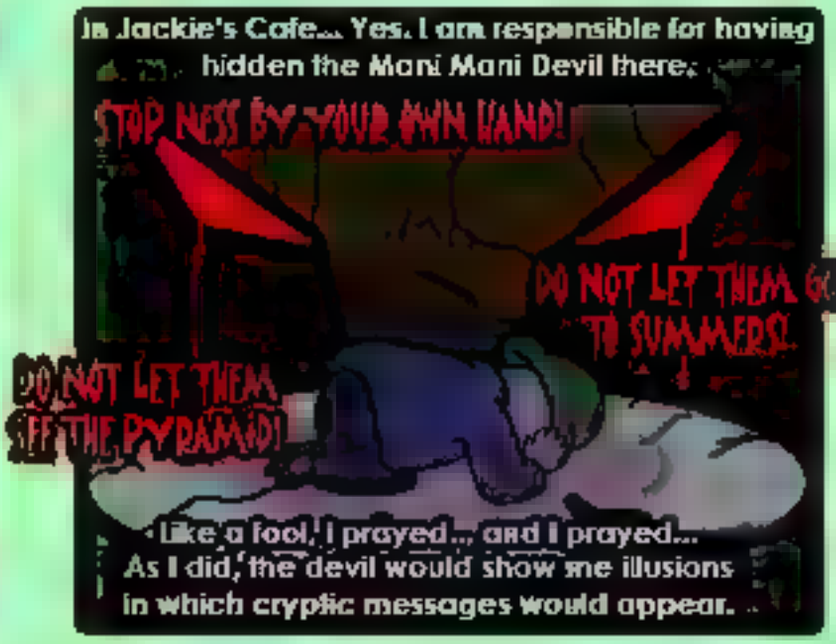
...What...What have I done...
...to this city, and to you children...
I have committed a grave sin,
one which a foolish old man like myself
could never hope to atone for in the short
time he has left...
Paula... I am truly sorry for having
separated you from your friends...
Mr. Mondoli...
It's okay
You were a victim
as well...
Please, can you tell
Ness...? About...it?
I have...nothing else to lose... My body is
so feeble now, I realize the youth I had
obtained was an illusion as well.
My body,
my arms...
Even my
hair is that
of an old
man's...
It was a lie...
A momentary
joy that has
left me with
only regret.
This is the
harsh reality
for those who
desire power...
Ness,
surely you have seen it
once before. That lunatic
statue...
Y-Yes..., I think it has
something to do with why we're
on this journey...
...I am the one responsible for having cast this dark
shadow over Fourside...
A shady character was
lugging it around the city.
The moment I saw him,
I knew I had to take
the statue...
...I tricked him and hid the statue, planning to sell it.
In truth, I was not a wealthy man... My lack of money,
and my old age had left my heart vulnerable to greed.
However, I was not very business savvy. I needed
someone who could assist me in selling the statue
for the right price. That...is when he appeared.
A nice young boy, about your age... Energetic,
kind, and loyal... His name is Pokey Minch...


In one single night, I made more money than I ever had in my entire career as a real estate agent. With Pokey's advice, I bought the Enoch Flavor building, and suddenly... I was somebody.
You're like a king, sir!!
M..Money... I have money now! Look, Pokey!!
However, Pokey never sold the statue! This brilliant youth had managed to formulate a plan to become rich all on his own! Although he was sometimes a bumbler, this child possessed incredible knowledge...
Mr. Manotoli. About those documents to allow Earthbound on the Virtual Console I shredded 'em.
Pokey!! You were supposed to shred the papers for Shaq Fu!!
Eventually, Pokey began pushing the idea of gaining political power... I've always been a timid man, so I was hesitant...
A...Are you sure?
Manotoli. It'll be okay We have a lot of support.
Hee hee... You can trust me.
That was when it started. I began having dreams that I was in my prime once again.
Power... I had power, wealth, and most of all, my youth...
I began praying to the Mani Mani Statue as this urge to be young again overtook me.
The more I absorbed myself in prayer, the more real it all became. I was young again!
I, Manotoli, stared down from the highest, most powerful skyscraper in Eagleland! This was my new reality! But most of all, it was only the beginning...!
My desire for power, wealth, and youth... They were foolish dreams dreamt by a foolish old man... Instead of becoming a powerful man, I became a monster ..
Manotoli. I'm sorry
Only now do I realize that the power I yearned for so badly would make me even weaker

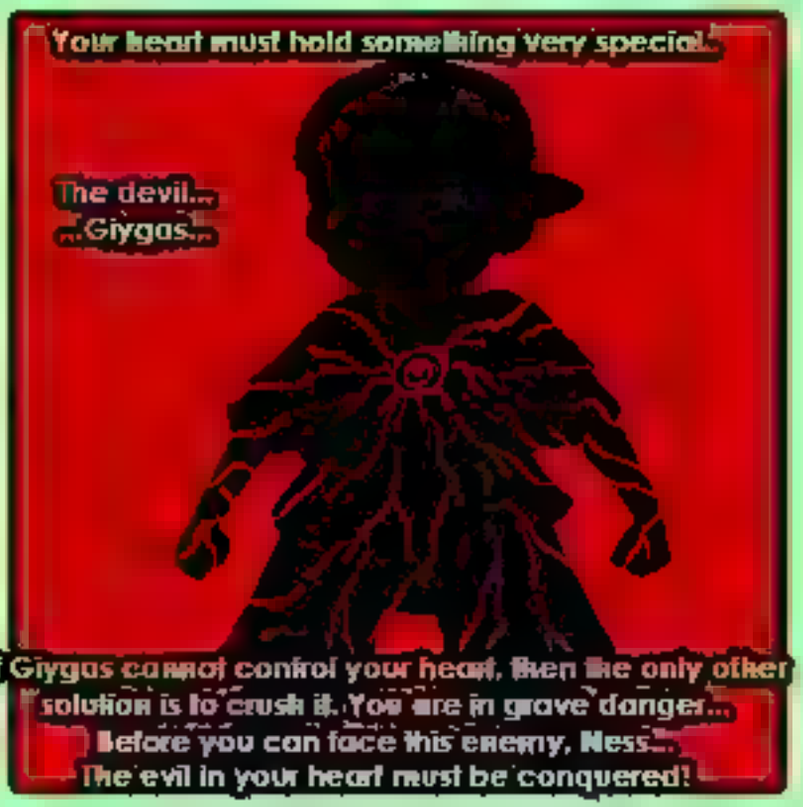

I've seen the Mani Mani before, and even knowing what it can do, I still feli victim to it...
The source of that power is beyond frightening...


Ness, you are correct... The source of that power, the being who holds power over the Mani Mani...
It is the devil himself!
Fear... Anger... Hatred... Sorrow...
The Mani Mani Devil manipulates the hearts of men who desire power. Using illusions, it toys with the human heart and preys upon any weakness.


The watchful eye of this devil extends to the ends of the earth. No man, woman, or child is safe from the influence it spreads...
There is no stopping it now...
Even if that accursed statue has been shattered!
...It is far too late. The devil has obtained enough influence to spread across the world... I... I knew this, deep down, but I was too afraid to stop it...


In Jackie's Cafe... Yes, I am responsible for having hidden the Mani Mani Devil there.
STOP NESS BY YOUR OWN HAND!
DO NOT LET THEM GO TO SUMMERS!
DO NOT LET THEM SEE THE PYRAMID!
Like a fool, I prayed... and I prayed... As I did, the devil would show me illusions in which cryptic messages would appear.

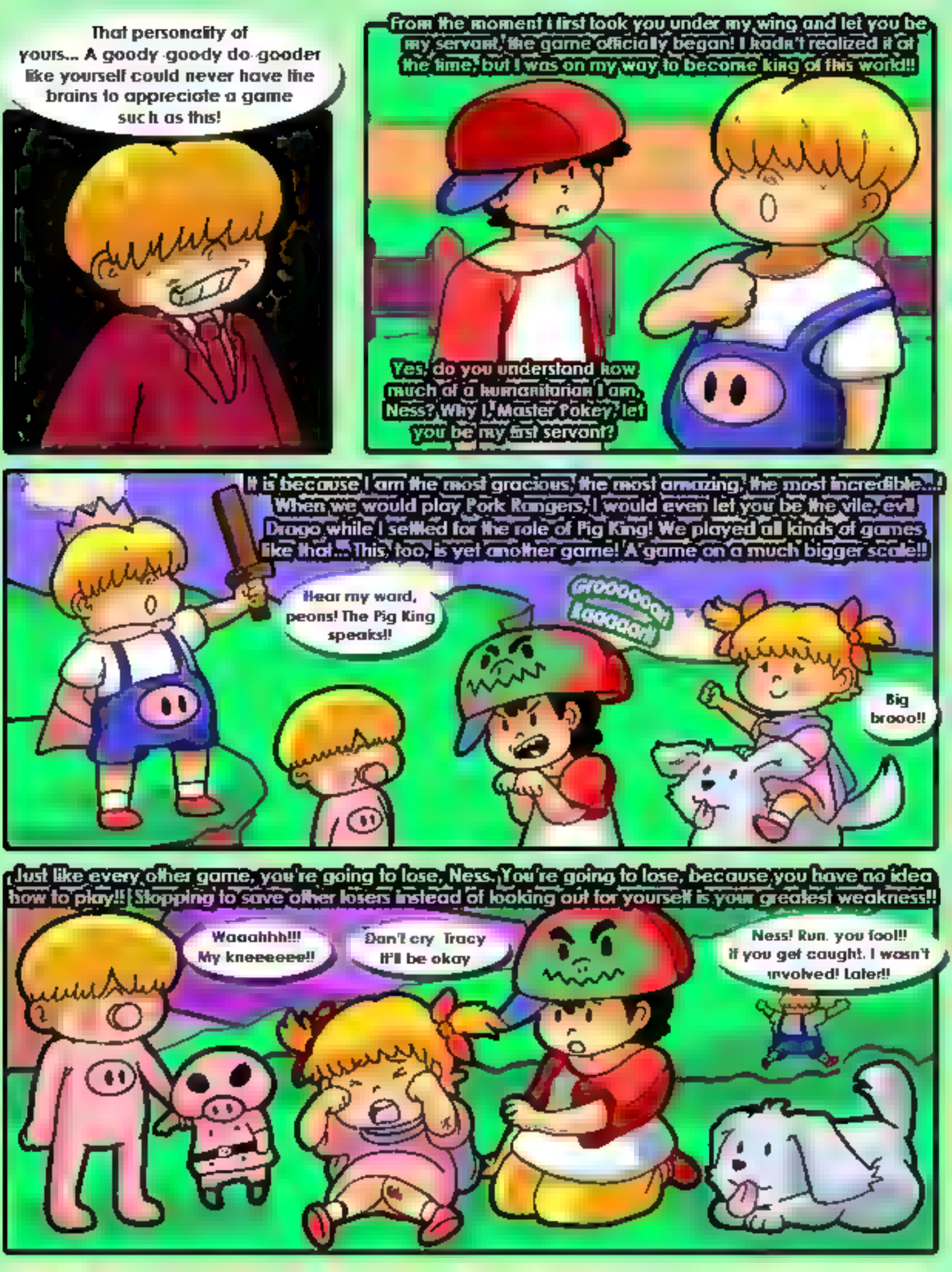
The enemy will stop at nothing to see you strung up, Ness.
I do not know why, but the devil is either looking to get rid of you, or to turn you into a puppet as it has done with so many others.


Your heart must hold something very special...
The devil...
...Giygas...
If Giygas cannot control your heart, then the only other solution is to crush it. You are in grave danger...
Before you can face this enemy, Ness...
The evil in your heart must be conquered!

The place to purge your heart and soul of darkness... Surely it must exist somewhere beyond Summers.
I see... Ness, obviously the enemy wants to keep us out of Summers at all cost. In other words, some crucial power or information must be waiting for us..
Summers? Isn't that across the ocean? How will we get there?
The Sky Runner, maybe...? Wait, that was scrapped. .. Um...
Please, take my helicopter! It is the least I can do to assist you!
Wow, our own helicopter??
Come, old friend... Assist me one last time as I help guide these children to their goal...
I will open the path to the heliport... The helicopter is yours for the taking. I insist!
CLICK
It is done... The path is open to you now...
I would go with you, but I am much too old... You children must face the struggle from here alone...
Nevertheless, you are strong! The three of you have an awesome destiny to fulfill. .
I believe that from here on, you can handle what lies ahead.. This ordeal has made it possible! So for now, goodbye...and good luck!

Hee hee... It feels like it's been a long time since we've all run together like this!
I hope the Runaway Five don't mind that we're leaving them behind...
I'm sure they'll understand!
Look!! There it is!!
HELI
Oh boy! I've never been in a helicopter before!
Jeff, do you know how to fly it...?
WHRRRRRRRRRRRR
W-What's going on...? The blade... it's moving...!
CHUKKA CHUKKA CHUKKA CHUKKA
But...why? Is it remote controlled? Could Monotoli have prepared it for us?
WAH HA HA HA HA HA!!
Ness, you brain-dead moron!! You really are slow, in more ways than one!
I'd feel sorry for you, but.. it's just too funny!!
Pokey...
What...are you...
What are you doing?! Why are you in Monotoli's helicopter?!

What do you think, Ness?! How do you like me now? I've really climbed up in the world, don't you think?
Preparations complete. Awaiting order for take off.
I've even outgrown this pathetic skyscraper! Only a luxurious helicopter is good enough to support me!
Ness, from up here, you look even more pathetic than usual! Do you need this helicopter that badly?
HELI
How about this... If you take a running jump off the building, maybe... just maybe... I'll let you grab my hand! Hee hee hee!! You can trust me!! It'll be fine!!
THAT HELICOPTER ISN'T YOURS!!
Hee hee hee... Wrong again, Ness!
This helicopter .. No, everything in this world is MINE! Do you really think that useless old simp could have ever obtained any of this without ME?!
Here I thought I could use Monotoli just a little longer, but now...
Thanks to you, he's just become dead weight to me! Ahhh...
That's why... He should just die! Drop dead! Bleeeeh, bleeeeh!! Hort hort hort!!
Useless! Stupid!! You and he have so much in common, Ness!! HA HA HA!!
Pokey... You are beyond despicable...
Is this all just another game to you??
There you go again, Ness...
Always looking for a chance to be a thorn in my side...
A game...? A GAME?!
...Of COURSE I think it's a game!!!


That personality of yours... A goody-goody do-gooder like yourself could never have the brains to appreciate a game such as this!
From the moment I first took you under my wing and let you be my servant, the game officially began! I hadn't realized it at the time, but I was on my way to become king of this world!!
Yes, do you understand how much of a humanitarian I am, Ness? Why I, Master Pokey, let you be my first servant?
It is because I am the most gracious, the most amazing, the most incredible...! When we would play Pork Rangers, I would even let you be the vile, evil Drago while I settled for the role of Pig King! We played all kinds of games like that... This, too, is yet another game! A game on a much bigger scale!!
Hear my word, peons! The Pig King speaks!!
Groooooar Raaaarr
Big brooo!!
Just like every other game, you're going to lose, Ness. You're going to lose, because you have no idea how to play!! Stopping to save other losers instead of looking out for yourself is your greatest weakness!!
Waaahhh!!! My kneeeeee!!
Don't cry Tracy It'll be okay
Ness! Run, you fool!! If you get caught, I wasn't involved! Later!!

That...is why I will win. This world and everything in it are part of a game made for me. ...FOR ME!!
You are just another helpless pawn on the board! Power... My power will be absolute.
Can your feeble mind grasp even a fraction of my greatness now, Ness? Can you see that I walk down the path of a KING?! This is the ULTIMATE game! A game created just for me!!
The people of this world are now reduced to being mere toys! Those who become useless or boring will be knocked down by ME, Master Pokey!! That is the fate of all losers! AHAHAHAHAHA!!
But, Ness, a loser is always a loser, even if he gets lucky and wins a few times. You were born a loser, and you will die a loser. Your only salvation is the fact that you are my pathetic, weak friend.
If you play the game by my rules, I won't break you like the other toys! What do you say?
SNAP
You could be a clown, or a mime...
...or how about a coat rack? You could hold coats, Ness! Surely an idiot like you could handle that! WAHAHAHAHA!!
Regardless of if you accept or not, it's too late!! Can you see it? This is the difference between you and I!
That is why I am up HERE, and you are down THERE!
I, Master Pokey, am the one who now stands above even the "chosen one" himself!!

WAH HA HA HA HA HA!!
Shuuuupid! Pathetic! This world is doomed if it has to rely on a "hero" like you, Ness! It's like my idiotic father always said... The apple doesn't fall far from the tree! You and your bratty sister are losers just like your mom and

POKEY ...!!!

SHUUUUT UUUUUUP!!!!!

Urk...!
W What?!

I won't let you push me around anymore!! I've put up with you because we're neighbors, but this time...you've gone too far!!

Insulting me, my family, and the people you've manipulated... You are the one person I can NEVER forgive!!!

I've heard ENOUGH!
A person like you... Pokey...
I WILL NEVER BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!!

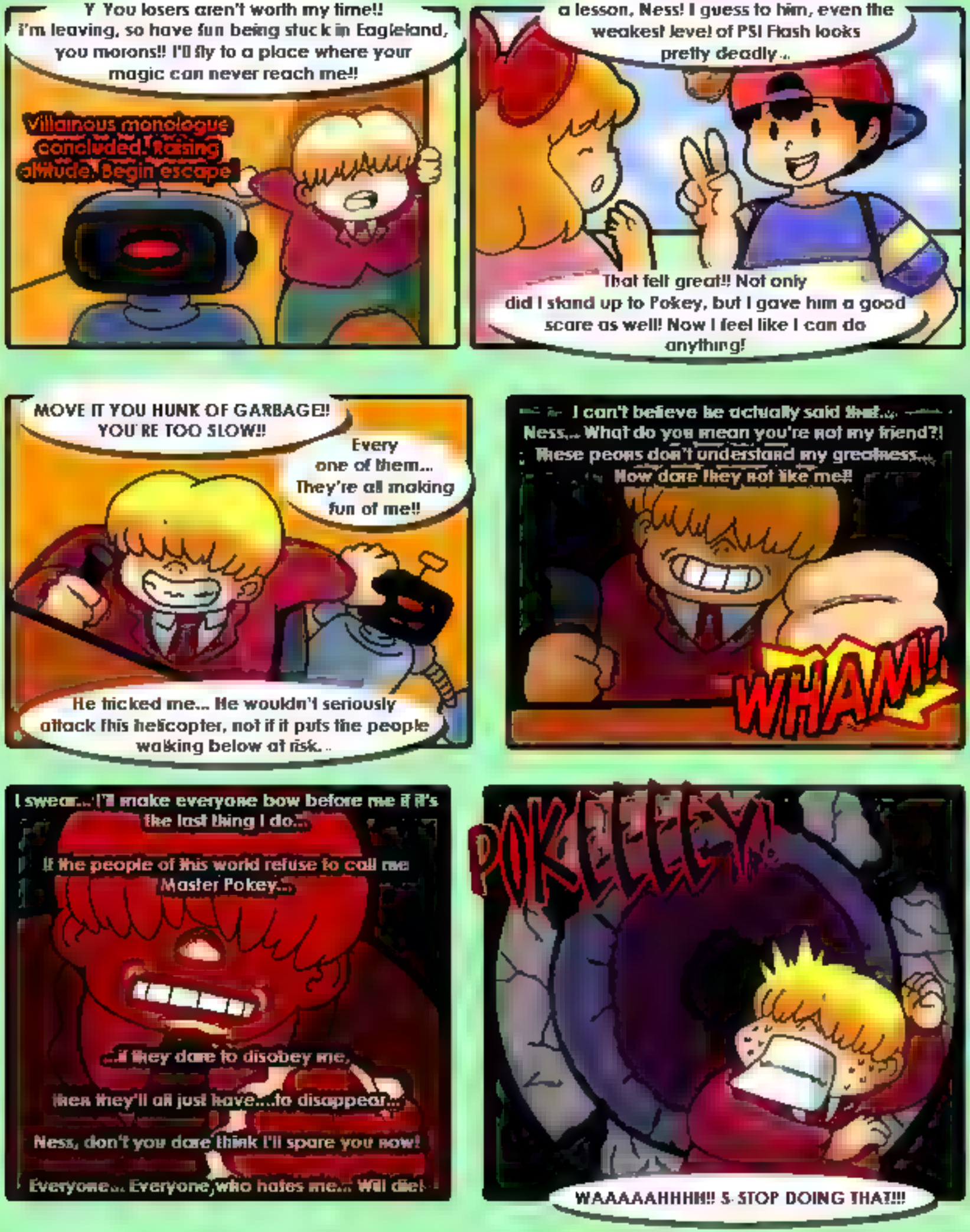
W-Wha... B-But I thought you were...

My friend...

Paula and Jeff... They're the closest friends I've ever had. Thanks to them, I finally have the courage to stand up to someone like Pokey...

I won't let you get in my way this time Pokey!!

I'm going to stop you right here!!


Y' You losers aren't worth my time!! I'm leaving, so have fun being stuck in Eagleland, you morons!! I'll fly to a place where your magic can never reach me!!
Villainous monologue concluded. Raising altitude. Begin escape
Hee hee, way to teach him a lesson, Ness! I guess to him, even the weakest level of PSI Flash looks pretty deadly...
That felt great!! Not only did I stand up to Pokey, but I gave him a good scare as well! Now I feel like I can do anything!
MOVE IT YOU HUNK OF GARBAGE!! YOU'RE TOO SLOW!!
Every one of them... They're all making fun of me!!
He tricked me... He wouldn't seriously attack this helicopter, not if it puts the people walking below at risk...
I can't believe he actually said that... Ness... What do you mean you're not my friend?! These peons don't understand my greatness... How dare they not like me!!
WHAM!
I swear... I'll make everyone bow before me if it's the last thing I do...
If the people of this world refuse to call me Master Pokey...
...if they dare to disobey me,
then they'll all just have...to disappear...
Ness, don't you dare think I'll spare you now!
Everyone... Everyone who hates me... Will die!
POKEEEEY!
WAAAAAHHHH!! S-STOP DOING THAT!!!

POKEY... AAAHHHH... GRRRR... MY POWER... MY POWER... MAMI MAMI...

T-The statue... It was destroyed...
N-Ness and his dimwit friends g-got to Monotoli a-and...
W-We l-lost our stronghold in F-Fours-side...

ARRRRRRGGGGHHHH... YAAAAAGHHH!!
POKEY! POKEY!! I'M... SO... MAD...

BA BUMP
BA BUMP
BA BUMP

POKEY!!
POKEY...
POKEY...

D-DON'T... BETRAY ME...

POKEY... POKEY. POKEY. POKEY. POKEY. POKEY. POKEY. POKEY. POKEY...

I AM... ALWAYS WATCHING YOU...

...FRIEND... YOU ARE MY FRIEND...

I WANT TO SEE YOU... TO ME... COME TO ME...

I... I think I just wet myself...

M-M-M-Master G-G-G-Giygas... I stole the helicopter that Ness was planning on using to leave Eagleland, but... I-I'm afraid to say that I've never been outside of Eagleland, either, so I don't know where to find you once we lose contact again...
Please, sir, if you can tell me what to do next, I'll follow you anywhere!
Y-You are the almighty, sir!
T-THE PLACE I... AM...

I AM WAITING... AT... THE PLACE...
B-BEYOND SPACE...
B-BEYOND TIME...
squish
squish
W-WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...
T-THE SOURCE... OF...

P-POKEY-YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE...
N-NEXT... GO TO... GO TO DEEP... DARKNESS...
D-D-D-Deep Darkness... A p-place most fitting for you, M-M-M-Master...
I-I think I can figure out h-how to get there...
S-S-Sir, I... um... I will d-d-do my best!
I AM... WAITING... AT THE PLACE...
THE PLACE BEYOND THE DARKNESS...

S-STOP... NESS... I... W-WILL GIVE YOU... THE... P... O... W... E... R...
T-TOGETHER... W-WE WILL... E-END HIM...
Ness... He's a thorn in our side that must be removed immediately... Master Giygas, if your goal is to destroy Ness, then that will become my goal as well! I, your humble servant, Pokey, will assist you in any way I can to erase him from this world...

WAITING I WILL BE WAITING
M MY REVENGE
W WON'T FORGET
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
NESS
ARGGHH REMEMBER
NEEEESS
I AM
NESS
ME
NESS
Y YOU
S STOP NESS
STOOOOOOOOOP
WAIT FOR NOW
HERE HERE
POKEY YOU
ARE
YOU
AHHH GRRR
N E S S
BUMP BUMP
BUMP BUMP
BUMP
BUMP

Ah... The illusion is gone..,
It looks like Master Giygas has finally lost it.
These images in my head, is this the power he wanted to give me?
Yes... the knowledge to create...something..is flooding my mind...

HMHMHMHMHM...!
I see...! I SEE!! This is it!!
Hee hee hee hee!!
With this, I'll be able to fight evenly against their magic!!
Teaming up with Master Giygas was the smartest thing I've ever done! This will be the greatest toy I've ever received!!

This...This is too great!!
Look at me!! Look at me now!!
It's funny!! It's so funny!! I can hardly contain my laughter anymore!!
WAAAAAAHAHAHAHA!!!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!
HAHAHAHAHAHAAAAA--

RUMBLE RUMBLE
HYORK!!
T-The helicopter...!
...I a-almost forgot...
For now, I'd better focus on flying. I'll save the laughter for when I see Ness' stupid face again!

Ness, you loser! This is only the beginning!! The next time we meet, I, Pokey, will be your greatest foe!! WAHAHAHAHA--
RUMBLE RUMBLE
..HYORK..!!
- End Chapter 4 -